

سنة من الاجل

THE TIMES

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THE BOOKER SHORTLIST

How they line up
PAGE 3

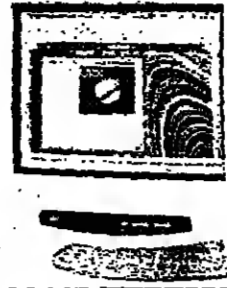


LONDON RULES AGAIN

Iain R. Webb on the triumph of Britpack designers
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7 MONITORS
WORTH £475
EACH TO BE
WON
PREMIUM LINE ENTRY



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on the hounding of the Duchess
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'Labour's coming home' speech promises a five-year covenant with the British people

Blair pledges new age of achievement

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday offered Britain a five-year contract under which he would lead it into a new age of achievement and end "17 years of Tory hurt".

In an inspirational address to his party conference, Mr Blair urged voters to "come home to Labour" and made ten vows for his first term of government. This was his covenant with the people, he said. "Judge me upon it. The buck stops with me."

Although the pledges were largely a reaffirmation of existing Labour policies and aspirations on education, health, employment, government spending, devolution and Europe, Mr Blair was trying to remove any doubts over whether Labour would really change people's lives.

It was a rapturously acclaimed, skilfully delivered speech designed to ready his party for power. "The glory days of Britain are not over. But the Tory days are." He declared "Labour's coming home" several times and appealed directly to former Tory voters and potential defectors from other parties. "I don't care where you are coming from. It's where your country is going that matters. If you believe in what I believe in, join the team. Labour has come home to you; so come home to us. Labour's coming home."

- TEN VOWS**
- More spending on education
 - Less spending on welfare
 - More spending on patients, less on NHS bureaucracy
 - Cut long-term unemployment, halve youth unemployment
 - Halve the time it takes young offenders to come to court
 - Contain government borrowing and inflation
 - Keep tax promises
 - Smaller primary school classes, higher standards in all schools
 - Devolution for Scotland, Wales and English regions
 - New, constructive relationship with Europe

the election came, there would be a thousand days until the millennium: "1,000 days to prepare for 1,000 years," he said over and over again.

The success of the speech was underlined by the reaction of union leaders who have recently voiced fears of being sidelined. And in the euphoria it appeared that Mr Blair had avoided a defeat over pensions today after John Prescott and Gordon Brown worked out a deal with the unions.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, described Mr Blair's address as an uplifting speech that would reach out to everyone. Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "The message that Labour is coming home is very powerful and it stresses that we are now ready for government."

which Tony crucially managed to weld together his vision of future progress with many of the values so important to the party's past."

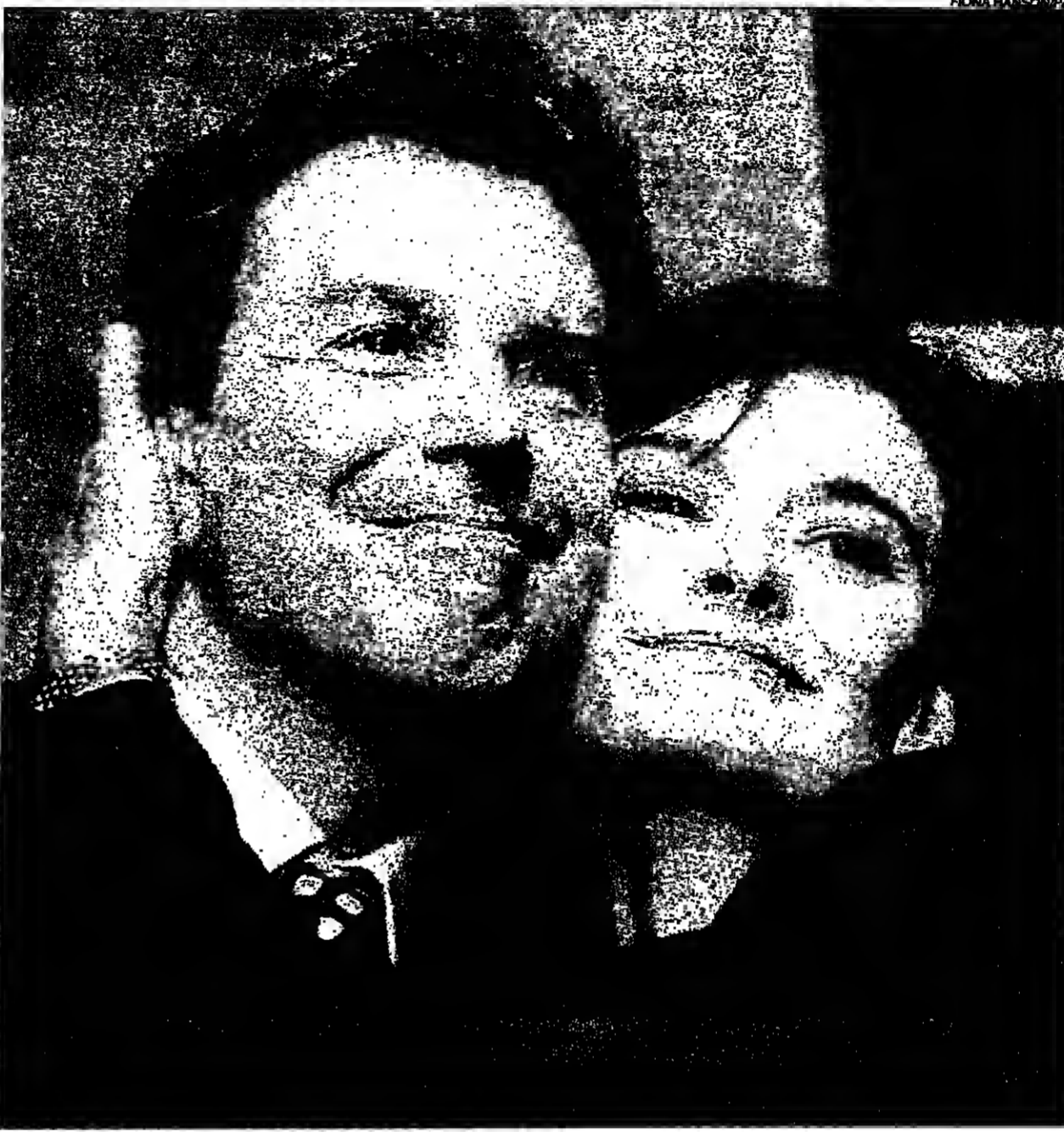
The central plank of the speech was Mr Blair's so-called "performance contract" for government. It was an idea that he had considered in the past and rejected for fear of giving hostages to fortune, but internal polling has persuaded the leadership that it must convince people that Labour would make a difference.

To hammer home the message that he was preparing for government, Mr Blair said that he would make big steps forward on the European single market during Britain's presidency in early 1998. He promised business that he would not allow Britain to be left on the sidelines, but he said he would not scrap the veto and would keep options on a single currency open.

He also repeated his "fairness not favours" message to the unions and said that a Labour government would not be "the political arm of anyone but the British people". The true radical mission of Labour, old and new, was not to hold people back but to help them get on, "each generation doing better than the last".

He won cheers as he reiterated commitments to take 250,000 young people off benefit and into work and, more surprisingly, when he said that Labour would be the party of sound finance and good housekeeping. Losing control of public finance was not radical but reckless, he said. Gordon Brown would be the Iron Chancellor.

Speech and conference reports, pages 6 and 7
Simon Jenkins, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 17



Tony Blair is congratulated by his wife Cherie as Labour conference delegates rapturously cheer his speech

Warning: this body language may offend

AFTER Tony Blair's speech at Blackpool yesterday a small but embarrassing moment occurred. Whether you saw it will depend on whether your gaze had been lifted, as Mr Blair hoped, to the sunlit uplands or whether your eyes rested somewhere lower.

Cherie Blair had tripped in for her victory kiss. She and Tony stood facing Britain, holding hands in a chaste but affecting stance, like Jack and Jill, her right hand clasping his left. More carried away than her spouse, Cherie then swung her free arm across his body, meaning to touch his right thigh and pull him round to face her for an embrace. Tony did not cooperate. He preferred to stay facing Britain, with whom he has been having a separate

Political Sketch

Matthew Parris

affair. This left Cherie in an awkward position, half-turned towards Tony with her left hand reaching for his thigh; he staring lovingly across the top of her head, at us.

Cherie gave up. Her hand trailed across the front of Tony's trousers, coming to rest for a second in an embarrassing place. This created a stance which was as surprising as it was unintended. It lasted no more than a second, and distracted only those few (perhaps) of us underwhelmed by that Billy Graham tone in the speech.

Of this it is hard to write without concern that many good people, moved for good motives by the speech, will not recognise the shudder it caused in others. Better judged, better crafted and

Continued on page 2, col 1

Father's stroke changed son's politics



Leo Blair at the Labour conference yesterday

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

SOME Labour Party activists were close to tears yesterday when Tony Blair gave an emotional unscripted account of his childhood trauma when his father, Leo, almost died of a stroke.

With the senior Blair sitting in the front row at the party conference, the Labour leader described the moment his "whole world fell apart" when he was 11 years old and heard that his father might not live. He said the experience had shaped his character and partly prompted his decision to

join the Labour Party in spite of his Conservative background. "I wasn't born Labour. I became Labour," he said. "And when you look back on your past you try to think of the things that shaped you."

Leo Blair, who was a successful barrister and university lecturer, was forced to abandon his own hopes of becoming a Conservative MP after the stroke left him unable to speak. Describing the effect of this on the family, Mr Blair said: "My father was a very ambitious man; he was successful; he was a go-getter. One morning I woke to be told

he had had a stroke and might not live through the day, and my whole world fell apart... "I don't pretend to you that I had a deprived childhood; I didn't, but I learnt a sense of values in my childhood," he added.

Middle East peace moves

President Clinton brought together the leaders of Israel and the PLO in Washington yesterday for the start of an emergency summit designed to break the impasse and give a new boost to the flagging Middle East peace process.

Although the atmosphere was tense, American officials said the Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu shook hands with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President. Page 11

Tory MP admits taking fee from lobbyist

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

A FORMER Tory whip last night admitted that he had accepted money from Ian Greer, the political lobbyist, and had failed to disclose it in the Commons register of MPs' interests.

Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, last night told *The Times* he had accepted an introduction fee from Mr Greer for bringing his lobbying company new business.

He becomes the sixth MP to have been named for receiving funds from lobbyists as the "cash for questions" row surfaces. The disclosure came as John Major faced growing demands to co-operate with a Parliamentary investigation into the accusations against Neil Hamilton, the former trade minister who dramatically abandoned his libel action against *The Guardian* on Monday.

The Prime Minister, who had been called as a defence witness, was challenged by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, to release all relevant Downing Street documents about the affair after Mr Hamilton made clear yesterday that he had no intention of abandoning his fight with *The Guardian*.

Mr Brown, who was paid the money in 1987, said last night: "I introduced a company, US Tobacco, to Ian Greer who paid me an introduction fee. I did not declare it because I did not think I had to. The rules about declaration were much more vague then. If it had happened today I

would have had no hesitation in making a declaration."

Mr Brown became involved after challenging ministers over their decision to close a cigarette factory in Scotland, owned by US Tobacco. The company had been wooed to Britain with the aid of a £1 million Government grant.

"I felt strongly that this was a waste of taxpayers' money but quickly realised that the company required professional help," he told *The Times*. "I provided US Tobacco with a

Continued on page 2, col 1
Leading article, page 17
Media, page 23



"Trust me to marry someone who isn't on Ian Greer's payroll!"

Uncovered: the real Bond — who spied for Russia

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

A SPY codenamed Bond was recruited by Russian intelligence to steal Britain's Second World War secrets more than a decade before 007 turned the tables.

However, the only similarity is the name. To his KGB masters' fury, the real Bond was astonishingly incompetent, papers released yesterday by the Public Office reveal. Lacking basic espionage skills, he had to repeat one operation because photographs were either out of focus or missed out "large chunks" of top secret documents.

A 1941 signal from Moscow to London to an agent codenamed Brian, intercepted by GCHQ, said: "By the last mail we recovered Bond's material films on radio location sets and a code memorandum on communications. The manual on radio location sets was not photographed in full from page 70 to 118. The code memorandum on communications was photographed out of focus and will not print."

The message — dated December 2, 1941 and from the Director of Russian military intelligence — ordered the Soviet military attaché in London to get Bond to try again. On this form, it seems he would never have been given the licence to kill enjoyed by Ian Fleming's literary hero.

Perhaps, however, this was a double bluff, and he was deliberately disrupting Russia's efforts. This was the first time an agent codenamed Bond appeared on signal traffic — and the last. Whether he completed his mission is not known.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



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MP's defiance dismissed as 'final act of bluff' as newspaper steps up claims

Commons inquiry urged into 'cash for questions'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR GORDON DOWNEY, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, said yesterday that he was ready to conduct an inquiry into "cash for questions" allegations against MPs but admitted that he had virtually no powers.

Also, the inquiry was to be conducted in private. But Sir Gordon could seek the backing of the Standards and Privileges Select Committee.

tense yesterday as he pledged to "clear my name of the stain for which The Guardian is responsible". He accused the newspaper of fabricating the material it published yesterday in support of its claim that he accepted cash in return for asking questions in the Commons.

Tory MP took fee

Continued from page 1 list of public affairs consultants, they chose Ian Greer. He gave me an introduction fee. I never worked for Ian Greer or lobbied for him, which was why I thought I did not have to declare the payment.

"serious" allegations against Mr Hamilton. He said: "The continuing accusations and counter accusations in this case are damaging to the reputation of Parliament and the truth of the matter needs to be properly investigated."

He predicted that he would clear his name within weeks. "I feel calm, determined and resolute. We go on to the next stage. I am not a quitter."



Neil Hamilton and his wife Christine at his lawyers' office yesterday. The MP said: "I am not a quitter"

Lobbyist who channels cash to a select band of MPs

By ANDREW PIERCE

drew yesterday strongly denied receiving payment from Mr Fayed.

Mr Hamilton said he could not comment on what might have been said about other MPs. But the claims about himself were "entirely false".

IAN Greer has channelled thousands of pounds into the general election fighting funds of a select band of leading Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs.

was also a client of Mr Greer's, made a sizeable donation. Mr Greer allocated the money to the MPs for Mr Al Fayed and DHL.

Blair brings Labour delegates home to a messianic performance

Continued from page 1 better delivered than Michael Portillo's fiasco at the Tory conference last year, it still had something of the same faintly messianic ring.

would usher in would be described by historians as "The Decent Society". Mr Blair started to cry "a thousand years for a thousand years" repeatedly.

stage-set as hovering between the neo-fascist and the neoliberal. In fact the speech spanned both periods.

Mr Blair did not explain which politicians it is who do not want a better world.

stage and swung round, jacket unbuttoned, like a male model. During the speech he repeatedly flung his arms out, stretched his hands forward, caged his fingers, cradled fingers towards his heart and stared up at the sky - or was it the Union Jack projected chillingly onto a screen above him?

raising video, Blair chose the seductively narcissistic David Bowie. Absie wrote this: "Roll on, Blair ... with David Bowie, each of you ... singing your bewildered androgynous anthem..."

Train hold-up An express train from Sheffield to Looe was held up near Biddenden, Bedfordshire, yesterday by a passenger who broke into the driver's cab and threatened to kill him after the train stopped at a red signal.

SWIFTCALL advertisement with 'listen' logo and pricing details for international calls.

Warning on fees for Cambridge advertisement by David Charter, Education Correspondent, discussing tuition fees and university funding.

Civilians to teach flying to Services advertisement by Michael Evans, discussing training for military pilots.

Israeli embassy bomb trial begins advertisement by Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent, detailing a trial for a car bomb attack.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court rejects cash claim over failed vasectomy

A judge has thrown out a couple's attempt to sue over a failed vasectomy that resulted in the birth of their fifth child after ruling that they have not suffered a loss.

Drinks remix

The makers of four brands of "alcoopp" drinks are to change their labels after complaints to the Food and Drug Administration.

Crime crackdown

A crackdown on violent disorder and petty crime in Britain started in Strathclyde with police arresting 243 wanted men and women.

Road challenge

Friends of the Earth was given leave in the High Court yesterday to challenge the Department of Transport over its approval for a £76 million bypass within sight of Salisbury Cathedral.

Police apologise

Essex Police apologised "unreservedly" to the family of Margaret Jarvis after officers failed to find the car containing her body and those of her two young sons.

Pensions inquiry

A businessman who won £2.6 million on the National Lottery is being investigated by the fraud squad.

Sold unseen

Jaguar has taken seven months' worth of orders for its new sports car even though many buyers have yet to see it.

Baby for Sarah, 13

Sarah Cook, the 13-year-old schoolgirl who returned home after marrying a waiter in Turkey, gave birth to a baby boy last night in an unnamed English hospital.

Committee formed to abolish committees

LABOUR-controlled Birmingham City Council has decided to slim down its costly 125 committees by forming another committee to deal with them.

correctness empire" by setting up an equalities committee. The new committee has been charged with reducing the £1.5m annual cost which the committees cost the taxpayers of Britain's largest authority.

and reports before committee members could meet. The only main committee which the council is legally required to establish is the social services committee.

Mercedes OWNERS Comprehensive Insurance from £170 advertisement.

Handwritten note in Arabic: فكان من الأصا

سكرا من الاجل

Judges for 1996 prize praised for selecting six of the best from a strong field

Fiction newcomer may spell fourth Booker letdown for Bainbridge

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE acclaimed writer Beryl Bainbridge faces stiff competition from the debut novelist Seamus Deane for the 1996 Booker Prize. Bainbridge has been shortlisted three times before without success.

There was little surprise in literary circles that *Every Man for Himself*, Bainbridge's story inspired by the fate of the *Titanic*, was on the six-strong shortlist for the £20,000 award. But widespread admiration was expressed for Mr Deane, a lecturer. One source said that the judges had no hesitation in shortlisting *Reading in the Dark*, his story about a boy enclosed in two worlds, one legendary and the other actual — Londonderry in the Forties and Fifties.

Mr Deane and Bainbridge face strong competition from Graham Swift's *Last Orders*, which was also shortlisted without argument. Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*, Shena Mackay's *The Orchard on Fire* and Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance*. Literary observers said it was a strong shortlist and there was no clear favourite for the prize, which guarantees higher sales

for the winner. Publishers submitted 123 titles. Those that failed to make the final six included Ben Elton's *Popcorn*; *The Brimstone Wedding* by Barbara Vine (the pseudonym of Ruth Rendell); *Story of the Night* by Colin Toibin; and *A Perfect Execution* by Tim Binding.

Swift, best known for his 1983 work *Waterland*, regards his shortlisted book as his strongest yet. Although delighted at the Booker news, he expressed regret about the "race-horse element" of competitions, pitting one writer against another.

The judges are chaired by Carmen Callil, the writer and co-founder of the feminist publisher Virago, who is considered a stern critic of the male-dominated publishing industry. The 1996 shortlist has the highest number of women in the Booker's 29-year history. Last year's winner, Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road*, was the only book on the shortlist by a woman.

Dan Franklin, publishing director of Jonathan Cape, said: "It's really good that the shortlist has three women.

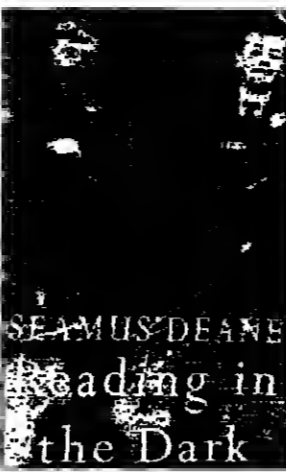


The judges, from left: Jonathan Coe, novelist; Carmen Callil; Ian Jack, Editor of *Granta*; Martyn Goff, Booker administrator; A.N. Wilson, author and literary editor; and A.L. Kennedy, author



ALIAS GRACE
By Margaret Atwood (Bloomsbury, £14.99)

In *The Handmaid's Tale*, the Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood imagined the future. Here she conjures up the past with fact as the basis. Grace Marks was young and beautiful, along with James McDermott, she was accused of the Montgomery-Kinross murders in Canada in 1843. McDermott was hanged and Grace imprisoned. Atwood's novel gives Grace a voice as Dr Simoo Jordan, a proponent of the infant science of psychology, probes for the truth of her tale. Atwood's *Cars Eye* was shortlisted for the prize in 1989.



READING IN THE DARK
By Seamus Deane (Jonathan Cape, £13.99)

Seamus Deane's unnamed narrator is the third of seven children born into a Catholic family in Derry. Set in the 1940s and 1950s, it portrays a world of grim reality and lyrical fantasy, as the boy retreats into the comfort of his books, where the heroism of Irish folk tales provide a vivid counterpoint to the secrets and sectarian divisions of his family. Deane, General Editor of *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing*, has published four volumes of poetry and the book's prose is lifted by his vivid and poetic imagery. It has been three years since a first novel appeared on a Booker shortlist.



EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF
By Beryl Bainbridge (Duckworth, £14.99)

Beryl Bainbridge's fifteenth novel is set aboard the *Titanic*. It returns to the theme of a doomed journey that haunted her last book, *The Birthday Boys*, set during Scott's expedition to the South Pole. The novel is told in the voice of Morgan, whose illusions about life and love and his place in the world are gradually stripped away. "Now that I knew I was going to live," he concludes as the ship sinks, "there was something dishonourable in survival." This is the fourth time Bainbridge has appeared on the Booker shortlist but she has yet to win.



A FINE BALANCE
By Rohinton Mistry (Faber, £15.99)

This is Rohinton Mistry's second novel. The first, *Such a Long Journey*, was on the Booker shortlist in 1991. Mistry, who was born in Bombay, sets his novel in India during the 1970s, the time of Indira Gandhi. The widowed Dina Dalal struggles to maintain her place at the edge of Indian middle-class existence; her life intersects with two tailors, forced from their native village into the city, and a student from a hill station near the Himalayas. Mistry provides a sweeping overview of Indian life as he follows the stories of these individuals and the characters they encounter.



LAST ORDERS
By Graham Swift (Picador, £15.99)

Graham Swift, one of the Book Marketing Council's best of young British novelists in 1983 — the year his *Waterland* was shortlisted for the Booker — proves his mature worth with the redemptive *Last Orders*. Four men embark on a day trip from Bermondsey to Margate to scatter the ashes of Jack Dodds, a deceased butcher, in accordance with his last wishes. Along the way they are sidetracked to locations and recollections that reveal both the scope and limitations of their tight-knit East End world. The novel's seemingly plain style makes authentic the voices of its characters.



THE ORCHARD ON FIRE
By Shena Mackay (Heinemann, £12.99)

Shena Mackay was born in Edinburgh but grew up in Shoreham and her seventh novel is set in a fictional "Stonebridge" that recreates the country town of her youth. It is Coronation Year and Percy and Betty Harleney have given up on London to run the Copper Kettle Tearoom in Stonebridge; their eight-year-old daughter April befriends Ruby, daughter of the local publican. But Ruby's life is no idyll and the novel reveals that behind the dream of chat and sunny afternoons lies a more disturbing reality of an English town in a year of transition.

Yates home to fight for custody

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

PAULA YATES, the television presenter, flew home from holiday in Australia yesterday to prepare for a High Court battle with her former husband Bob Geldof for custody of their three daughters.

The couple will appear before a judge in the Family Division, where Mr Geldof won temporary custody last week of Fifi Tribixelle, 13, Peaches, 6, and Ploie, 4, in their mother's absence.

Mr Geldof, the singer and Live Aid campaigner, launched the action after a police raid on the London home of his former wife and the singer Michael Hutchence in which opium was allegedly found in a tube of Smarties under the bed.

Ms Yates said that she had not yet been asked by police to account for the alleged discovery of drugs.

Gormans fined £6,000 and face huge legal bill after 'slighting' listed farmhouse

By A STAFF REPORTER

TERESA GORMAN and her husband were each fined £3,000 yesterday for changing their 16th-century farmhouse without listed-building consent. The case at Grays, Essex, ends a two-year wrangle between Thurrock Council and the Euro-sceptic Tory MP for Billericay over Old Hall Farm, her Grade II listed home at Orsett.

She and her husband James were each ordered to pay £4,000 costs. Mrs Gorman said after the case that she faced enormous legal bills that had still to be assessed.

She said of the court decision: "I am enormously relieved. The court made it clear this was at the lower end of culpability. This has blighted our lives for two years. If the council had talked to us, this could all have been prevented. Think of the cost to the ratepayers. I fell in love with



the building. If you put your heart and soul into a house, you certainly don't want to move away. Perhaps in ten years' time it might be worth what we have paid out on it.

"It is now clear the courts have had their say and I hope we are going to be left in peace in our lovely house which my husband has brought back to life." The couple had pleaded



guilty under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act to alterations affecting the character of a building of architectural and historical interest.

Mark Romer, the stipendiary magistrate, said he accepted the Gormans were motivated by "a desire to find somewhere peaceful to live and to restore the building to a

habitable state. It is not a wilful defiance of the planning law."

But some alterations had affected the character of the building. "It is perfectly clear that the purpose of the Act is to preserve what is left in this country of fine, original buildings, and if work is to be carried out, it must be done with consent. This was and still is a fine building," Peter Richards, an architect for the council, listed 29 changes that were detrimental to the character of the timber-framed building, which had been "slighted". Work done without consent included adding a porch, which had since been removed, and removing an 18th-century brick facade.

The couple bought the dilapidated house in 1992 for £170,000 and spent £230,000 on restoration. It was now valued at £250,000. Mr Gorman said that he had had a meeting with the chief planning officer, who made no mention of listed-building consent on the property, which had been boarded up. Work began in August 1993 and in the following June Annette Reeves, a planning officer, knocked at the front door and asked: "Why did you take out the sash windows?" Mr Gorman said: "Her visit was like a bolt from the blue."

One is rather amused, in a grotesque fashion



The Queen: offered the project her support

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CARICATURES of the Prince of Wales, the Queen and Prince William have been mounted on a church spire in south London as part of a £500,000 restoration programme. The grotesques, whose ears and teeth are accentuated, sit next to carvings of the vicar, churchwardens and local dignitaries on the spire of St John the Divine, built in 1870 in Kennington by the architect George Street.

As the 260 ft spire was being restored, the Prince of Wales gave his permission for the stone carving to feature on the

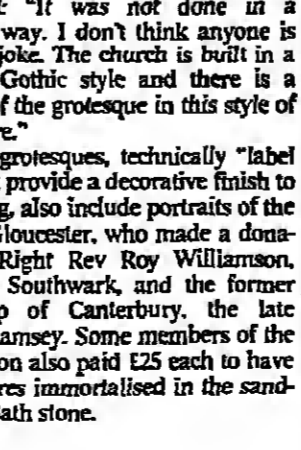
Victorian Gothic church, which overlooks land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. He also made a "generous" donation to the restoration fund.

The Queen is also said to have approved the project. The Rev Lyle Dennen, the vicar, said: "It was intended as fun and the Queen has been very supportive. We received her permission. The Queen's gargoyle is next to a young Brixton lad who was murdered by drug dealers. I'm up there and so is a local teacher."

Barbara Cartland, the author and Royalist, criticised the carvings as "distasteful". But Tim Crawley, head carver at the Cambridge architects Rattee and

Kett, said: "It was not done in a malicious way. I don't think anyone is beyond a joke. The church is built in a Victorian Gothic style and there is a tradition of the grotesque in this style of architecture."

The 60 grotesques, technically "label stops" that provide a decorative finish to a moulding, also include portraits of the Duke of Gloucester, who made a donation, the Right Rev Roy Williams, Bishop of Southwark, and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the late Michael Ramsey. Some members of the congregation also paid £25 each to have their features immortalised in the sand-coloured Bath stone.



The Prince: gave cash to restoration fund

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British and American codebreakers took years to decipher Cold War cryptograms from the KGB

The innocuous message that unmasked traitor Maclean

By IAN MURRAY AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE coded message that eventually unmasked Donald Maclean as a Soviet spy in 1951 had nothing to do with official secrets. Intercepted in 1944, it took cryptographers working on the Venona project unraveling KGB cryptograms years to work out that it said Maclean had travelled to New York to visit his wife, who was there because she was having a baby.

The innocuous message was crucial. In the early 1950s, Maclean was one of more than 6,000 diplomats and officials known to have access to information that the KGB was known to possess. The decoded message about his visit showed that he was the only one who had been in New York regularly at the time the information must have been passed over.

The message was among 2,500 intercepted by American and British listening posts between 1940 and 1947 and released by the Public Record Office yesterday. The cryptograms were so complex, with the codes changing daily, that not only did they take years to decipher, but the messages were rarely complete.

The first of the English KGB agents to learn that Maclean's cover had been blown was Kim Philby. As a liaison officer for M16



working in Washington between 1949 and 1951, he was given regular reports about the progress of the Venona project. Philby told Guy Burgess, about to travel home from the Washington Embassy aboard the *Queen Mary*, and gave him instructions to tell Anthony Blunt, who was to warn Maclean. Philby told Burgess that he was to remain under cover. However, Burgess told Maclean himself and the two escaped to France aboard a ferry

two days before Maclean was to have been interrogated by M15. As a result, both Philby and Blunt were revealed as spies, although not immediately exposed publicly. The decoded messages show how useful "Homer" (Maclean's code name) had been to the KGB. In September 1943, he reported to them that "Captain" (Roosevelt), President of the "Country" (the United States), was to meet "Boar" (Churchill), Prime Minister of the

THE RUSSIAN CODES

IT SEEMS that the hard-faced, heavy-handed KGB men of the Cold War era may not have as humourless as Western spy fiction would have had us believe. According to messages decoded in operation Venona, they referred to the Germans as "sausage makers" and France as "Gastronomia". Soviet agents used the secret messages as a personal shopping service. Requests included orders for books and, in one case, a specific instruction to find a cheap secondhand edition of George Bernard Shaw's six-volume *Prefaces*. There were also instructions to check up on the families of Soviet agents. One message to Stockholm read: "Find out how his father is. It is advisable to inquire about the relatives of all our workers." Among their code names were Trust (the Soviet Embassy in Washington), The Factory (the Soviet Trade Organisation in America), Tyre (New York), Sidon (London), Babylon (San Francisco), Country House (the White House), Bank (the American State Department), Khaia (the FBI), Arsenal (the American War Department), Pool (the British Embassy in Washington), Nook (the Foreign Office), Gymnast (a member of the Young Communist League), White Hares (White Russians) and Polecats (Trotskyists). Great Britain was referred to as "Island", and other codenames included Land (Canada), Gastronomica (France), Islanders (the British), Boar (Churchill), Captain (Roosevelt), Sailor (Harry S Truman). "Music" was a radio wireless post and "to play music" meant to operate a radio or wire. "Green" or "the competition" referred a member of a non-Soviet counter-espionage agency.



Germany should be helped to economic recovery and what to do with Hitler if he was caught.

Some of the earliest messages to be decoded were those sent from London to Moscow. They involve material from "Les", an agent described as active and successful whose identity is still unknown. During the same period "Hicks" (Burgess) began sending useful reports, including the text of messages being sent to "Poole" (the

British Embassy) in "Carthage" (Washington).

London was at the centre of the KGB spy network and the files show that dozens of agents were feeding information to Moscow. One of the key figures provided detailed information about troop movements and Britain's armed capability. The KGB also disclosed that they were close to a man known as "Little", who was later identified by British Intelligence as

probably John Carruthers Little, the industrial commissioner at the Ministry of Labour.

The KGB was also running two important French agents from London. One codenamed "Jerome" was identified as André Labarthe, director-general of French armament and scientific research at General de Gaulle's HQ. "Martha" was also a key player. She was probably Alta Martha Lacombe, his secretary and a committed Communist who was judged by the KGB to be more politically astute than her boss. She had previously been the mistress of Pierre Cot, the French aviation minister, who had also passed secrets to the KGB in New York.

The successful London operation was ultimately threatened by the defection of Gregor Guzenko, a cypher clerk in Ottawa, in September 1945. "Viktor" (Lieutenant General Pavel Fitin, head of the KGB), warned "Bob" (Boris Krotov, third secretary and consul in London), to be aware of "intensification of counter-measures against us being carried out in the Islands". On September 21, 1945, Viktor advised Bob to "transfer Hicks to the control of Adams [unidentified], and cut down meetings with him to once a month".

Letters, page 17

Cardinal bows out with plea to IRA

By NICHOLAS WATT

CARDINAL Cahal Daly called on the IRA to restore its ceasefire when he retired yesterday as the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland and as Archbishop of Armagh.

Dr Daly, who was 79 yesterday, will be remembered for his fierce attacks on the IRA during his six years as primate. His retirement speech, delivered in the archbishop's residence, condemned IRA terrorism as "futile, politically inept and morally wrong".

The cardinal said that his greatest regret was that the peace process was "so perversely slow and fraught with so many setbacks". The recent arms finds in London showed that the IRA was committed to violence while Sinn Féin was committed to political methods. He urged the republican movement to "desist from sending out contradictory and self-cancelling signals".

The Most Rev Sean Brady, 57, Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh, will be installed as archbishop next month.

Sir Patrick Mayhew said last night that he believed loyalist prisoners had withdrawn support from multi-party talks, not from the loyalist ceasefire.

Photograph, page 24

Garda hold 18 over murder of journalist

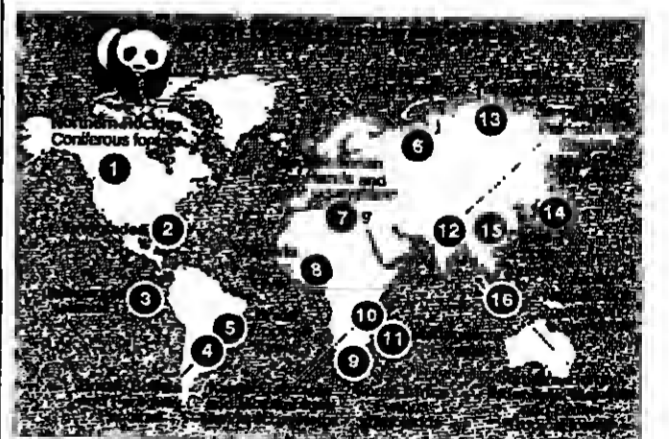
By AUDREY MAGEE

IRISH police have arrested 18 people in connection with the murder of Veronica Guerin, the Dublin journalist shot dead in June by a hitman.

Hundreds of police raided houses around Dublin late on Monday evening and early yesterday. They arrested ten women and eight men who were being questioned in Garda stations around the city. They were held under a section of the Offences Against the State Act, which allows detention for 48 hours.

The arrests were the latest in a series in connection with the murder. Police sources said those held, while not thought to be responsible for the murder, might have information that would lead to the killers. It is understood that £70,000 thought to belong to the man who ordered the assassination of Ms Guerin was seized in the raids.

Graham Turley, Ms Guerin's husband, has said that the Garda believe they know who organised the killing. In an article in *The Dublin* magazine, Mr Turley writes: "They seem to have boiled it down to a certain person who has orchestrated the whole thing." Ms Guerin, 37, who wrote about the underworld, was shot dead on the outskirts of Dublin as she sat in her car at traffic lights in June.



Scientists list 200 key wildlife sites

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TWO hundred sites where 95 per cent of the world's wildlife could be conserved have been identified by scientists. The sites, which range from river basins and arctic tundra to tropical forests and coral reefs, are to form the backbone of a 30-nation conservation effort headed by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Under the plan, launched in London and 29 other cities simultaneously via a satellite link yesterday, the charity is to form partnerships with companies, governments and local people to try to preserve habitats. The campaign is also aimed at industries which are causing huge environmental damage.

Yesterday Unilever, the world's biggest processor of frozen fish, with brand names such as Birds Eye, said it was backing the charity's marine stewardship council.

Later this year the council will draw up guidelines on how to catch and process fish

at sustainable levels. Frozen foods should be on the market soon that carry certification labels, showing that the fish have come from a sustainable fishery.

Another company, AssiDo-man of Sweden, which owns forests the size of Belgium, said it was switching its production to sustainable forestry under another certification scheme.

Other industries are being urged to tackle emissions of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas, through energy efficiency schemes.

Claude Martin, director general of WWF International, said the charity would be renewing its efforts to save the tiger, giant panda and the black rhino.

He said the key element in making conservation efforts work was to recognise that local people could not be excluded and had to have a stake in the wildlife and habitats.

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Room at the top where a multimillionaire toils

By Robert Miller and Stephen Farrell

A TINY top-floor office in north London, reached through a narrow doorway between two shops, is where one man earns £50 million a year.

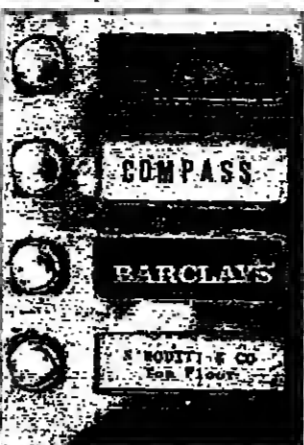
Spencer Nicholas "Nick" Roditi, a money manager, earns his living as a senior adviser to George Soros, one of the world's most successful financial speculators. Mr Soros hit the headlines when he made \$1 billion by betting against sterling in the 1992 currency crisis.

The office of N Roditi and Co is perched above Hampstead High Street, over the Gap clothes store. In the confined space Mr Roditi advises Mr Soros on the \$1.5 billion New York-based Quota fund — a "hedge" fund which in recent years has been the most successful of the seven funds run by Mr Soros under the Quantum umbrella, in which \$12 billion is invested.

Mr Roditi and his wife Pamela live in Cannon Lodge, a £1.3 million listed building in one of the most exclusive parts of Hampstead. The red-



Nick Roditi, whose successful money-managing business is fronted by a modest nameplate



twice a week, is rated as one of the most astute hedge fund advisers. Last year the Quota fund rose by a staggering 159 per cent while this year it is up by 34 per cent so far.

Before setting up on his own in 1988 Mr Roditi spent about ten years working at Schroders, the independent merchant bank, where he worked in London and the Far East before leaving to join Lord Jacob Rothschild at his Rothschild group.

Mr Soros has more than once admitted that hedge funds such as Quantum have become victims of their own success. As smaller entities they used to be able to nip in and out of the world's money markets before others realised what they were up to. Now he says they are so large that the crucial element of surprise is often lost.

For all the talk of multi-million pound gains and bonuses hedge funds can also lose a great deal of money. On St Valentine's Day 1994, for example, Quantum admitted to losing \$600 million after an unsuccessful punt that the dollar would strengthen against the yen.

bricked former parsonage and 120-foot grounds are set well back from the leafy road and protected by a six-foot wall and black wrought iron gate. The rear has a panoramic view across London.

But, like its owner and his office, there is more to it than meets the eye. Builders who spent more than a year working on the interior before Mr Roditi moved in told neighbours that they had installed an underground swimming

pool beneath the front lawn. Mr Roditi also plans to install a glazed orangery.

The means by which Mr Roditi has accumulated his wealth — hedge funds — do not invest in company shares but make their money from taking bets on global economic issues, such as the future movements in currencies and world interest rates. Mr Roditi, who speaks to Mr Soros by telephone at least



Contrast of styles: Nick Roditi's tiny top-floor office in Hampstead, north London, and his £1.3 million home

Specialist calls for law to prevent unusual families

By Jeremy Laurance and Adrian Lee

TIGHTER legal safeguards on fertility treatments are needed to prevent the creation of "exceptional" families, a leading British specialist said yesterday.

Dr Stuart Horner, chairman of the British Medical Association's ethical committee, said the case of Mandy Allwood — who has lost three of her eight fetuses — highlighted the importance of a change in the law to protect children. Last night Ms Allwood was said to be comfortable and resting in the labour suite at King's College Hospital, south east London. Her five surviving babies were said by a hospital spokesman to be stable, but their outlook was uncertain.

Dr Horner said the BMA had raised the issue with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which licenses clinics carrying out test-tube fertilisation and artificial insemination, but had been told that the authority had no power to intervene under the law. "I know there are many situations in which children are brought up against overwhelming difficulties, but I don't think it is any part of medicine that we should help create those situations," he said.

Changing the licensing arrangements for fertility clinics would not have directly affected the Allwood case, he said, since she was treated in a private hospital and they do not require licences. But the case illustrated the dangers of allowing patients to dictate their own treatment.

The paternalistic view that doctors should make all the decisions was wrong, he said, but now the responsibility had shifted entirely on to patients. "It appears we are seeing some consequences of totally autonomous decision-making. The Mandy Allwood case illustrates one of the unfortunate corollaries of that position. Yes, the patient was right to make her own decision, the law would support that and the BMA is not opposed to it but it is going to cause her a lot of sadness and unhappiness in the next few days."

Dr Horner said: "We should not create situations in which the child is going to be brought up in circumstances which are clearly going to be exceptional. This makes me resist assisted fertilisation for post-menopausal women, lesbian couples and surrogacy for homosexual men."

As for Ms Allwood, he said he felt "very sorry", but she should have taken her doctor's advice to have some of the babies aborted to give the others a better chance.

In recent years women over 60 and lesbian couples have been treated at infertility clinics in Britain. Last month a homosexual couple fathered a baby using sperm from one of the men and a surrogate mother.

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Activists demand more jobs before joining EMU

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR activists warned Tony Blair yesterday against taking Britain into a single currency unless unemployment is first reduced across Europe.

Although the party leadership allowed only a short debate on Europe, delegates passed a motion demanding a "realistic" timetable for joining economic and monetary union, based on higher employment. The call came as the Labour leadership sought to emphasise its commitment to Europe by promising to sign up to the social chapter within months of taking office.

Dick Pickering, from the GMB general union, highlighted concern over the scheduled 1999 start date and was cheered when he said that Labour should press for Britain's delayed entry. "It is time to defer the deadline for a single currency for a few years to give European economies time to complete the recovery."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that ending mass unemployment had to be the priority of the European Union. Britain would join the single currency only if European countries commit themselves to that.

"Jobs will be the bottom line by which we judge whether Britain will join any single currency."

Although Labour insists that it will not take a decision until after the general election, and possibly after holding a referendum, the Euro-sceptics in the party interpreted Mr Cook's comments as evidence of the leadership's cooler attitude towards the single currency. Senior figures played down suggestions that Labour was changing its position, saying that Mr Cook had previously made clear that higher employment would be made a precondition of Britain's entry.

Mr Cook outlined what his aides described as "his realistic vision" of a European Union. He balanced his prediction that the single currency would make a single market work better with a warning that Britain would benefit only by competing on level terms.

In a rousing speech he challenged the Tories to fight the general election on European issues. It was time for a fresh start in Europe, he said. A Labour government would sign the social chapter before January 1, 1998, "because Britain cannot be a leading player in Europe when it is lagging behind everyone else in Europe."

He repeatedly emphasised the common interest that Labour had with European governments. The conference was shown video film of the Prime Ministers of Portugal, Austria and the Netherlands wishing Labour success in the general election campaign. Mr Cook challenged John Major: "You try and find three European Prime Ministers who would even dream of sending a message of support to the Tory conference."

He contrasted Labour's commitment to Europe with the Tory party's "crude jingoism", which he said "damages our own society". He went on:

"Once a nation is persuaded that foreigners abroad are a threat, then it is only a short step to believing that minorities at home are a danger. Xenophobia and jingoism are the natural parents of bigotry and discrimination."

"I want a nation that is confident of its own identity and at peace with its neighbours. I want a nation that looks forward with enthusiasm to the world of the future and does not look back in nostalgia to its past."

Mr Cook announced that Labour had appointed Sir Michael Butler, a former ambassador to the European Union and adviser to Tory and Labour Prime Ministers, as its special envoy to consult potential new members of the Union. The appointment, he said, was evidence of Labour's commitment to expansion of the European Union.

Letters, page 17



Glensy Kinnoch, left, Barbara Follett, centre, and Helen Southworth, a parliamentary candidate, at the debate

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

Short seeks return of quotas for women

CLARE SHORT yesterday signalled the return of the quota system for Labour's women candidates after the general election.

Ms Short argued that positive discrimination was the only way to increase women's representation at Westminster despite Tony Blair's earlier opposition. The party spokesman for overseas aid congratulated women delegates who had demanded fairer representation calling it the "biggest modernisation of all". Delegates backed a motion reaffirming a target of half the Parliamentary Labour Party being women within ten years or three general elections.

They also ensured that Labour members of a new Scottish parliament, a Welsh assembly and English regional chambers would have equal numbers of men and women.

Ms Short said the party's policy of women-only shortlists in some parliamentary seats, which was dropped after it was ruled illegal, had been a success. She added that many other countries had used quota systems.

IN BRIEF

Socialist Worker is barred

Socialist Worker has been denied a conference press pass. An activist for the magazine, June Threadgold, said that Labour did not want any criticism in the run-up to the general election. A party spokesman said there had to be a limit to the number of press passes "and unfortunately this year Socialist Worker fell off the end".

£1m donation

A £1 million donation to the party's election fighting fund from the Victory Appeal Fund of Affiliated Trade Unions was announced to delegates. It follows £1 million last month from Matthew Harding, the businessman and co-owner of Chelsea Football Club.

Today's business

Morning: David Blunkett on Education. Afternoon: John Prescott on Operation Victory, Labour's strategy to win the general election. Harriet Harman, Shadow Social Security Secretary, versus Baroness Castle of Blackburn on Labour's plans for pensions.



Cook: Labour will make fresh start in Europe

An appeal to the best that should lure real Tories

MARGARET THATCHER once said that politics was about the very good and the very bad in human nature. Tony Blair appealed yesterday to the best of the Labour tradition and the best instincts of the British people.

He renewed the vows of Labour to the marginal, the powerless, the disenfranchised. No one hearing him could doubt the depths of his personal commitment to leading Britain out of the inequality, division and injustice that now so disfigure it.

He made clear his belief in the benign possibilities of the State and his frustration at our capacity for collective responsibility starved of expression. He made his party happy. Will Tories, too, respond to Blair's political appeal? For those Tories who

the disadvantaged. It believes in everyone being able to get on.

A generous reference was made to me. The fact is that a year ago I could not but respond to the blend of commonsense and decency, the healing and renewal of the nation that Tony Blair offers. A party of sound finance and good housekeeping. A leader who speaks the language of the covenant. Could Margaret Thatcher forbear to cheer?

Delegates from time to time tell Labour conferences how angry they are. I'm angry when people slag off Blackpool landladies. Last year I cancelled my booking for Blackpool after hearing John Prescott apostrophise one-nation Labour in Brighton. This year I was greeted without reproach. "You've turned out this time, Alan. Just as well. You're welcome."

The real politics is happening in Blackpool quite apart from the conference. Feeling is running high among Blackpool landladies about the colonisation of the boarding houses by unscrupulous exploiters of DSS benefit payments. Homeless people are being packed in and fat fortunes are being made. Monday night's meeting of the Blackpool borough council planning committee was, by the vivid account given to me, not a cosy experience.

In Sybil Disraeli describes working breakfasts as an innovation on the part of restless Liberals. I joined the Labour Party, and I find it a prodigious effort to get to pressure group breakfasts far along the front at 8am. The prunes, croissants and coffee would not of themselves have vindicated the journey to the Child Poverty Action Group's breakfast, but the discussion did. Peter Townsend, who has done more to elevate and educate the debate on poverty than anyone, and Sally Witcher, who embraces real expertise with campaigning flair, instructed half a dozen Labour MPs, to our great appreciation, on policy issues bearing upon children.

Alan Howarth is the Labour MP for Stratford-on-Avon

ALAN HOWARTH'S



CONFERENCE DIARY

I prefer a leader with some capacity for self-deprecation, he offered that too. This was a speech, in words and body language, of someone assured of his own convictions, and confident that he could enthuse both party and country.

It was a speech to which any Conservative of the Butler and Macmillan years could respond, and many more recent Tory voters too. Blair evoked Britain's greatness, past and to come.

New Labour is tough in its determination to discipline public spending. It sees no virtue in tax for its own sake. It will not tolerate lawless and anti-social behaviour, whether private or public. It will not tolerate poor standards in education or the shame of homelessness. It will govern for all the people, including the disabled and

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NEWS BRIEF

Firm fined £4,000 over girl's death on slide

A company was fined £4,000 after it admitted making a slide with a design fault that caused the death of a girl aged 3.

Army drug tests: Eighteen soldiers face disciplinary action after random tests revealed traces of cannabis and other soft drugs.

Uranium claim

Blue Circle launched a multi-million-pound damages claim in the High Court against the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Halted in tracks

A public track through Captain Mark Phillips's farm on the Gatcombe Park estate in Gloucestershire has been re-routed.

£2m birth award

Penny Murfin, 17, of Aughton, near Sheffield, who suffered brain damage when starved of oxygen during birth, won £2.25 million in the High Court.

'Ally Pally' listed

Alexandra Palace in north London, built between 1865 and 1873, has been added to the Grade II list of buildings of special architectural or historical interest.

Young burglars

Two boys aged four and five have been caught breaking into a house. They were found by a woman when she returned to her home in Kidderminster.

Fire inquiry

Police are investigating a blaze that severely damaged the roof and front of the Royal Opera House, Scarborough.

Beeches face axe

Lake District planners have decided to carry out a decision to fell the remaining 54 beeches in Rusland, which they say are dangerous.

Rugby trial date

Jack Robinson, the chairman of Wigan rugby league club, pleaded not guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice over an alleged bogus transfer deal.

Home of the hits

The National Trust is seeking planning permission to open Paul McCartney's childhood home to tourists.

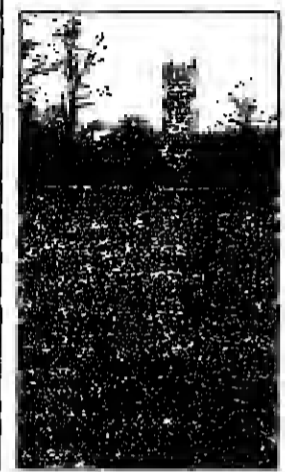


SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

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Independent heads learn of crisis in state schools

By DAVID CHARKER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of one of Britain's most deprived schools told the country's top independent schools yesterday that the state system was in "meltdown" in the inner cities.

Schools like hers were struggling because they had to act as surrogate families. Half of her pupils were from single-parent families and many did not know their fathers.

Her grim message about life "on the other side of the tracks" was delivered to head teachers from the 250 leading independent schools represented by the HMC.

Mrs Palmer-Jones, a teacher since 1970 and head for four



Silver spoon: Britt Ekland expects to receive up to £250 for this holiday snap of her and Sellers, taken in 1960

Ekland auctions letter revealing the jealousy that haunted Sellers

By JOHN SHAW

THE jealousy that racked the late Peter Sellers was disclosed yesterday in a letter he wrote to Britt Ekland shortly after they married in 1964.

The three-page letter is part of a collection of Miss Ekland's property, estimated to fetch £80,000, to be auctioned at Christie's in South Kensington, London, on December 3.

In the letter, Sellers describes his feelings while watching a Brigitte Bardot film: "When I looked at Bardot on the screen tonight, she reminded me quite a lot of you."

After watching The Great Escape, Sellers writes: "I was getting deeply engrossed when somebody said, 'Who's that fellow?'... Someone else said, 'That's John Leyton'."



In character: 'I feel in a rambling mispelt mood'

thought, 'John Leyton? He's in the film that my Britt's doing. She kissed him. Oh, but that's nothing, that's just acting'."

Sellers then tells Ekland: "I've depressed myself getting into a state like this. I really am an idiot. They say all comedians are sad. I wonder if that's true? Still, I'm not

really a comedian. I don't know what I am..." The letter was sent to Miss Ekland in London while Sellers was filming Kiss Me, Stupid in Hollywood.

The letter, estimated at between £500 and £800, is among a wealth of corres-

pondence, consisting largely of affectionate notes and telegrams from film sets and hotels in New York and Los Angeles. But it will revive old controversies. Sellers, who died in 1980, took out an injunction to prevent Miss Ekland, 53, from printing his letters to her in True Britt, her autobiography.

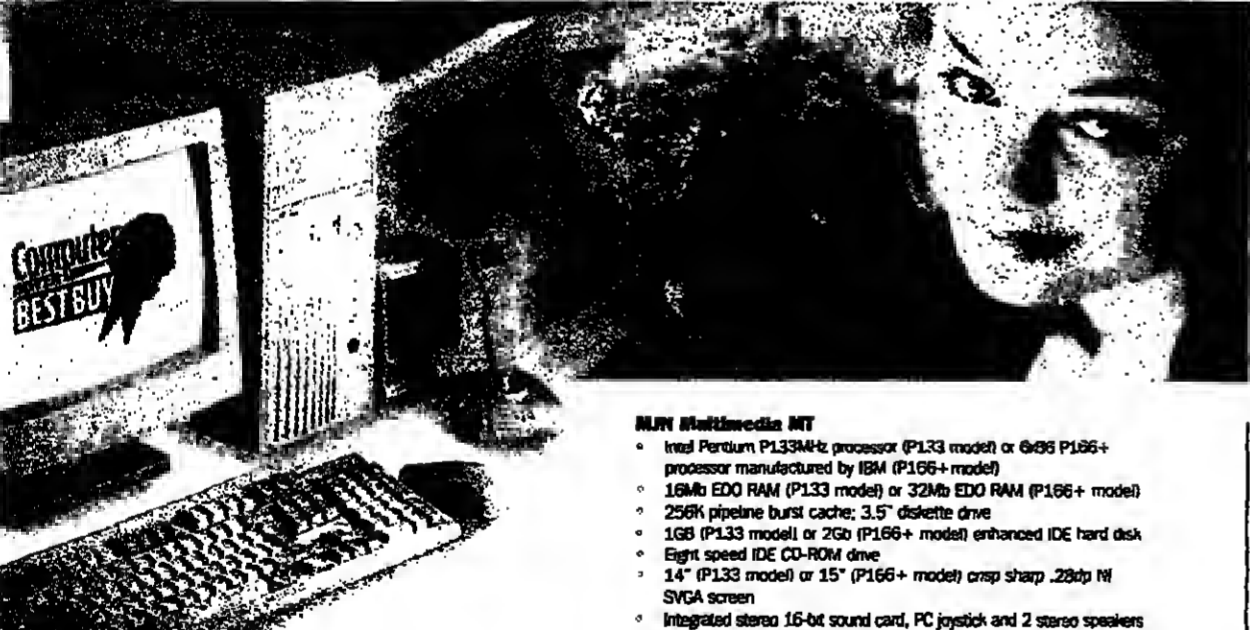
Miss Ekland, who lives in Los Angeles, said yesterday that she had included the letter in the sale "because it describes the man in all his confusion and passion and professional insecurities much better than any documentary or friends' conversation."

The auction includes many reminders of the lighter side of Sellers. Five telegrams he sent a few days before the letter together spell out the title of a nonsense song and character from the BBC radio comedy series The Goon Show, which brought Sellers to fame: the Ying Tong song, signed "love, Bluebottle".

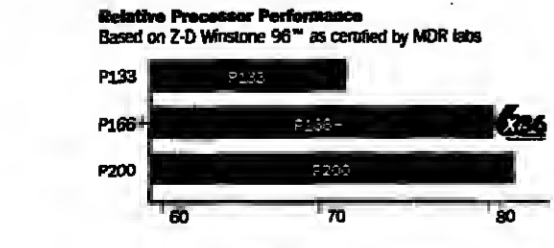
Leading article, page 17

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Victims of breast cancer 'denied life-saving drugs'

FROM JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT, IN ISTANBUL

THOUSANDS of women with breast cancer are being denied drugs that could save their lives by lazy specialists, a leading breast surgeon said yesterday.

Margaret Ghilchik, director of the breast unit at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, said the failure to give chemotherapy immediately after surgery could explain Britain's poor record on breast cancer survival.

Many specialists wrongly treated the cancer as a local disease, with surgery and radiotherapy, instead of recognising that it affected the whole body.

There are 25,000 new cases of breast cancer in Britain each year. A third occur in pre-menopausal women in whom the disease is most aggressive and chemotherapy of greatest benefit.

Speaking at the British Medical Association's annual clinical meeting in Istanbul, Mrs Ghilchik said: "Women

A vaccine against multiple sclerosis has shown promising trial results in America. Of 17 patients given the vaccine, six developed clinical evidence that it was working and showed no deterioration over a year.

many women. Chemotherapy involved extra work, with patients required to attend six sessions in hospital at three-week intervals.

There are 25,000 new cases of breast cancer in Britain each year. A third occur in pre-menopausal women in whom the disease is most aggressive and chemotherapy of greatest benefit.

Speaking at the British Medical Association's annual clinical meeting in Istanbul, Mrs Ghilchik said: "Women

don't die of local disease, they die of metastases [secondary tumours throughout the body]. I feel very strongly women that should have whole-body treatment.

The reason our survival figures are worse in Britain is because we have not given chemotherapy at the proper time, immediately after surgery, to wipe out the spread. It is easy to prescribe tamoxifen and surgeons and radiotherapists feel that they are adding something when they do. But what they add is often inappropriate.

in younger pre-menopausal women, tamoxifen has no effect."

Mrs Ghilchik said surgeons had been trained to perform mastectomies or to remove lumps from the breast and radiotherapists had been trained to shine X-rays on patients' scars.

Chemotherapy was appropriate for all women with breast cancer except those at the earliest stage with very small tumours, she added.

Marooned Frenchman stole yacht to see pregnant lover

By TIM JONES

A FRENCH trawlerman left behind in Ireland after drinking too much Guinness stole a yacht and wrecked it off the Cornish coast as he tried to sail home.

Yvan Renaud, 22, was desperate to return to his girlfriend, who is three months pregnant, after he woke up in the fishing port of Dunmore East, Co Waterford, to discover that his colleagues had sailed without him.

M Renaud commandeered the 22ft Skagerrak and set sail in heavy seas. Without a map, compass, radio or food, he was blown off course by gale-force winds and ran aground on rocks at Thorri's Beach, near Crackington Ha-

ven, Cornwall. As the sea smashed the £5,500 yacht, M Renaud staggered ashore with a sprained ankle and limped to a holiday cottage near by. The occupants called the police.

Officers decided that he had committed no crime in Britain and took him to Ray Lilley, a guesthouse owner who speaks French. Mr Lilley said: "I think he is lucky to be alive because he did not have a clue what he was doing or where he was."

"He had lost everything including his ID card and passport. All he had were the clothes he was wearing. He was quite desperate to get home because his girlfriend

in France is three months pregnant."

After giving him a meal, Mr Lilley took his guest out for a drink to celebrate his first visit to England. He then drove M Renaud to Plymouth and put him on a ferry to Roscoff, the port in north-west France where his girlfriend was waiting with documents to prove his identity.

Mr Lilley said: "I did buy his ticket and he promised to send me the money. I am a great believer in human nature."

Irish police have decided that it would be too expensive to extradite M Renaud to face charges.

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OCTOBER 2 1996

NEWS IN BRIEF

Firm fined £4,000 over girl's death on slide

Army drug test

Halted in track

Uranium claim

£2m bid

Ally

Young

Fire

Beach

Rush

Islamic conquerors keen to dispel image of fanaticism in attempt to win world recognition

Taleban poised for battle to eliminate forces of warlord

THE seemingly invincible Taleban army, now in control of three-quarters of Afghanistan, reached the mouth of the Panjshir Valley in northeastern Afghanistan last night for a decisive battle with thousands of ousted government forces. Huge armoured forces of tanks and artillery face each other in the shadows of the Hindu Kush.



Christopher Thomas in Kabul says that the triumphant student army is sweeping north for the final showdown

them could still occur in due course. With Mr Masood apparently doomed, General Dostum is the only big obstacle to uniting Afghanistan under the Taleban flag. Taleban, or "religious students", is trying to shed its extremist image and allay fears that it will export Islamic fanaticism to central and southern Asia. It pledged yesterday to restore basic women's rights, to fight international terrorism and to move quickly to instal a government chosen by the people. "We seek friendship with the world," it declared.



An Afghan refugee family waits for a tent to be issued at a camp near Peshawar, Pakistan. About 10,000 have fled across the border in the last two weeks



Holy army bolsters heroin trade

ALTHOUGH pledged to spread the word of Allah throughout Afghanistan, Taleban has become the main guarantor of the lucrative heroin trade to Europe - in violation of the Koran. Afghanistan is now the source of almost half the world's heroin, worth millions of pounds a year. The country's poppy harvest first bloomed on a significant commercial scale during the bitter struggle against the Soviet occupation. The Mujahidin, with American blessing, ran the country's poppy crop, and used it to buy arms.

Court gives go-ahead for Elysée bugging inquiry

A PARIS appeals court has given the go-ahead for a full legal investigation into the illegal wire-tapping of politicians, journalists, lawyers and artists by a presidential anti-terrorist unit in the 1980s. The so-called "Elysée eavesdropping affair", in which at least 150 people were allegedly bugged between 1983 and 1986, is the most explosive scandal left over from the Socialist Government of the late President Mitterrand.

Italians angered by Chirac slight

ITALIAN officials expressed fury yesterday with both France and Spain over suggestions that Italy's last-minute attempt to meet the Maastricht criteria on monetary union was doomed to failure. President Chirac of France yesterday declared bluntly that Italy had no hope of being in the "first wave" of countries joining the single currency in 1999 despite its bold 1997 deficit-shrinking budget, adopted last weekend in the face of business opposition.

Russian defence chief pleads for cash

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW THE Russian armed forces are so underfunded that they are losing their battle-worthiness and impoverished soldiers may soon be reduced to selling weapons, Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, said yesterday. General Rodionov used his first press conference since his appointment in July to appeal to President Yeltsin for more defence funds.

Communist has his hair restored

A LURID blond wig, with ringlets reminiscent of Harpo Marx, was restored to its aged Communist owner yesterday in a ceremony in Madrid that was both bizarre and comic. The wig, believed to have been made by Picasso's hairdresser, had been worn 20 years ago by Santiago Carrillo, then leader of the banned Spanish Communist Party, as a disguise to evade the Spanish police and Civil Guard.



Carrillo: bereft of the ringlets that saved him

Girl thief tortured in Turkey

A CAMPAIGN to stop disappearances, extrajudicial killings and the torture of suspects was launched yesterday within Turkey by Amnesty International. A report by the London-based human rights group, Turkey, No Security Without Human Rights, points to the complicity and intimidation of judges, politicians and even doctors, which allow members of the security forces to get away with murder.

Stoned staff make Cannabis TV go to pot

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM CANNABIS Tel-a-vision (Ctv), an Amsterdam-based TV venture to promote the "positive side" of marijuana use, appears to have gone up in smoke. Believed to be financed by a group of wealthy cannabis aficionados and soft drug dealers, mainly from the United States, the channel was due to be beamed up from Amsterdam to 37 countries last weekend. But just a few hours before the broadcast deadline for the one-hour pilot programme, the channel's staff abandoned the project, apparently too stoned to carry on.

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Advertisement for Barclaycard Visa credit cards, including contact information and a list of benefits.

Europe challenges anti-Cuba laws at world trade body

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

THE European Union yesterday raised the stakes in its dispute with Washington over America's anti-Cuban trade laws by deciding to challenge the action before the new World Trade Organisation.

The move, by the EU's foreign ministers, was a break with the cautious approach adopted last spring when the US Congress angered Europe by passing legislation to punish foreign firms that trade with Cuba. Britain, with its partners, fiercely rejects measures in the so-called Helms-Burton Act that allow US companies to sue foreign companies or individuals deemed to have gained from investments in Cuban property confiscated since the Communist revolution of 1959.

President Clinton has suspended the most controversial measures until January and last month, Jacques Santer,

President of the Commission, said the EU would not start moves to take Washington to a World Trade Organisation arbitration panel until after the American elections.

Senior US officials have been lobbying hard to dissuade Europe from that action on the ground that it would only serve to provoke American sentiment against the multilateral trade organisation, set up last year. Leon Brittan, the Trade Commissioner, rejected that argument yesterday, saying: "What is the use of creating a dispute settlement mechanism for multilateral disputes if you are afraid to use it?"

A WTO panel takes about six months to decide whether a complaint is justified. It can impose sanctions against a country found at fault. States may, however, win exemption if they cite national security as

the motive underlying a policy. The EU action will go to the WTO court on October 16.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, repeated Britain's distaste for the Helms-Burton legislation and a similar Act, drafted by Senator Gus d'Amato, which envisages sanctions against foreign firms trading with Libya and Iran. "The Helms-Burton and d'Amato legislation are the wrong way to go about it," he said. "First it won't work... Second they are wrong in principle."

Britain flatly rejected Washington's attempt to claim "extraterritorial" jurisdiction over foreign enterprises, he said.

The EU ministers also asked the Commission to continue preparing so-called "blocking statutes" legislation that would neutralise the impact of the American law. Britain already has such a law. Mr Rifkind said the question of whether or not the issue went to the WTO before the American elections was irrelevant. "I don't think that the question of elections in the United States... should determine EU policy," he said.

Yesterday's decision reflects growing frustrations in Europe over what is seen as Washington's tendency to act alone on international issues.

Although Mr Rifkind emphasised yesterday that the EU's quarrel was with the Republican-dominated Congress, the Clinton Administration is held responsible for a less than co-operative approach to Europe. President Clinton's decision to hold an emergency Middle East summit without European involvement was the latest such action.

Partners "mean": Mr Rifkind criticised Britain's EU partners for lacking "generosity of spirit" after they refused concessions to Jordan over imports of tomato concentrate, the country's most important export.



Elizabeth Dole, in hiker gear, rides on stage with Jay Leno, the talk-show host

Dole's wife revs up support

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WHEN she roared on to a Los Angeles stage clad in leather and riding pillion to one of America's foremost talk-show hosts, Elizabeth Dole confirmed that she had abandoned all political subtlety in her attempt to secure the election of her husband, Bob, as President in November.

Sporting a black helmet worthy of a Hell's Angel and a jacket bearing the logo "Biker for Bob", Mrs Dole leapt on to a large motorcycle with Jay Leno, host of the *Tonight Show*, and said: "Yeah! rev it baby. Let's get out of here."

Later on the set, she continued her skit. "Jay, look at my jacket. I'm a biker from way back," she said. "I've come a long way from Harvard Law School to biker chick."

The act not only demonstrated Mrs Dole's ability to make fun of herself on a show that has relentlessly targeted her husband as too old for

office, it also emphasised the chasm that exists between her campaign style and that of Hillary Clinton. It also punctuated the critical importance of the candidates' wives in this presidential election.

With her husband struggling even in the traditionally Republican states of Florida, Texas and Arizona, Mrs Dole cannot afford the luxury of discretion and is playing a campaign role which can only be compared to that of a presidential running-mate.

Atlanta Olympics supremo runs out of cash and luck

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TWO months after the Centennial Olympics, Billy Payne, who took the Games to the Southern city of Atlanta, is deep in personal debt and has had difficulty finding work.

Mr Payne, 48, an energetic property lawyer who worked for nine years to stage the Games in his home town, is about \$300,000 (£322,000) in debt to his bank and has spoken of his "post-Games decompression".

He hoped to earn high fees from public speaking engagements, but had to lower his rates owing to the perception in America and abroad that the Atlanta Games were not entirely successful. After the highly publicised computer glitches, transport fiascos and the bomb, few were interested in what he had to say.

There has been none of the national feting and few of the global lecturing invitations enjoyed by his predecessor Peter Ueberroth, who organised the 1984 Olympic Games for Los Angeles. Mr Ueberroth was made *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year", given the coveted job of baseball commissioner, and became a worldwide symbol of brilliant management. Leading businessmen sought his advice and military leaders studied his logistical record.

Mr Payne, who organised an event twice the size of the Los Angeles Games, has been shunned. It is as if America is ashamed of him. Until last week, he did not even have a job, but then came an offer from a friendly Atlanta bank to be a vice-chairman — one of many — involved in "business development", the nebulous sort of role normally reserved for superannuated politicians.

The debt is nothing to worry about, Mr Payne insists gamely. "I didn't do the Olympics to get a reward at the end of the day. I am not ashamed of the debt or burdened by it — it just is what it is." But friends worry that his near shunning by an ungrateful nation will do nothing for his health. He has a history of heart trouble. The post-Games period should have been a time of

high reward and satisfaction for him, but instead there is a sense of dismay and let-down.

In the battle to win the Games for Atlanta, he travelled the globe, often at his own expense. He borrowed heavily, and the salary he was paid by the organising committee (\$600,000) seems to have been insufficient.

Andrew Young, the former diplomat and civil rights politician who helped to run the Games, has urged the city of Atlanta to pay Mr Payne a bonus if the Games end up making a profit (accounts are still not final). "I have always felt there is a significant prejudice against Southerners," said Mr Young. "If Billy was a Harvard lawyer instead of a University of Georgia grad, some would think that is worth more."

Bob Brennan, a colleague of Mr Payne, said: "There is considerable feeling here that Atlanta was treated unfairly. By extension that is true of the contribution of Billy Payne."

So, two months after the Games' closing ceremony, Mr Payne is preparing for life in a bank office, taking occasional calls from prospective clients and staring at a far from full diary. The job has little executive clout. "To me, titles don't mean anything," said Mr Payne. But the emoluments will come in useful, at least.

Olympic perk, page 26



Payne: travelled globe at his own expense

German car plants crippled by strikes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ABOUT 100,000 workers yesterday brought Germany's car industry to a standstill with strikes against cuts in sick-pay.

Mercedes, Opel and Ford were hit hard by the action, which is sure to make an impact on the Government of Helmut Kohl. It has been trying to trim public spending and thus qualify for European monetary union, and has introduced a package that eats away at job security, benefits and sick-leave.

The measures came into force yesterday, but the unions argue that they are still legally protected by wage agreements negotiated last winter. "We will show them what it means to play with us," said Karl Feuerstein, the works council

chief of Mercedes. Herbert Mai, the chairman of the public-service union, made clear that the various unions had found a common cause and were ready to shatter Germany's carefully choreographed social consensus.

"For 40 years we have had guaranteed full pay during times of illness," he said. "Now they want to take that away. It has become a symbol of the destruction of the welfare state and the undermining of the wage pact."

The strikes could easily develop into a serious problem for Herr Kohl, who has criticised the big firms for jumping the gun. The unions have already threatened that their action could be similar to the 114-day stoppage in 1956-57.

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Leading players in Middle East crisis left with little room for manoeuvre

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

COMMENTARY

HOURS before Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister...

star Mordchai Ben-David to a pulsating beat as the crowd...

demonstrating "against the deteriorating situation and against the Government's alarming policies"

decision to redeploy troops from Hebron would win government approval.

cent against. Asked who they believed had gained most from the present crisis...

one of many in Israel who said yesterday that Mr Arafat's new-found confidence...

Clinton summit gives ray of hope to peace efforts

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday launched an emergency White House summit to rescue the Middle East peace process.

He held separate Oval Office meetings with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister...

The atmosphere was tense, with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders sitting on opposite sofas...

In Jerusalem, Israel's President Weizman made an emotional plea for Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat to put the peace process back on track...

ment's chief spokesman said the summit could be boiled down to five words: "meet, stop fighting, start talking"

Mr Netanyahu was first into the Oval Office having arrived in Washington on Monday evening...

President Clinton said he had "good conversations" with both men.

King Husain arrived late on Monday and met Mr Clinton to discuss ways to facilitate discussions.

After the group meeting, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, was expected to chair further meetings last night and the various leaders are tentatively scheduled to attend a lunch and joint press conference before leaving Washington today...

chair further meetings last night and the various leaders are tentatively scheduled to attend a lunch and joint press conference before leaving Washington today...

Three years ago Mr Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, ended decades of hostility between their peoples with a celebrated handshake on the South Lawn of the White House.

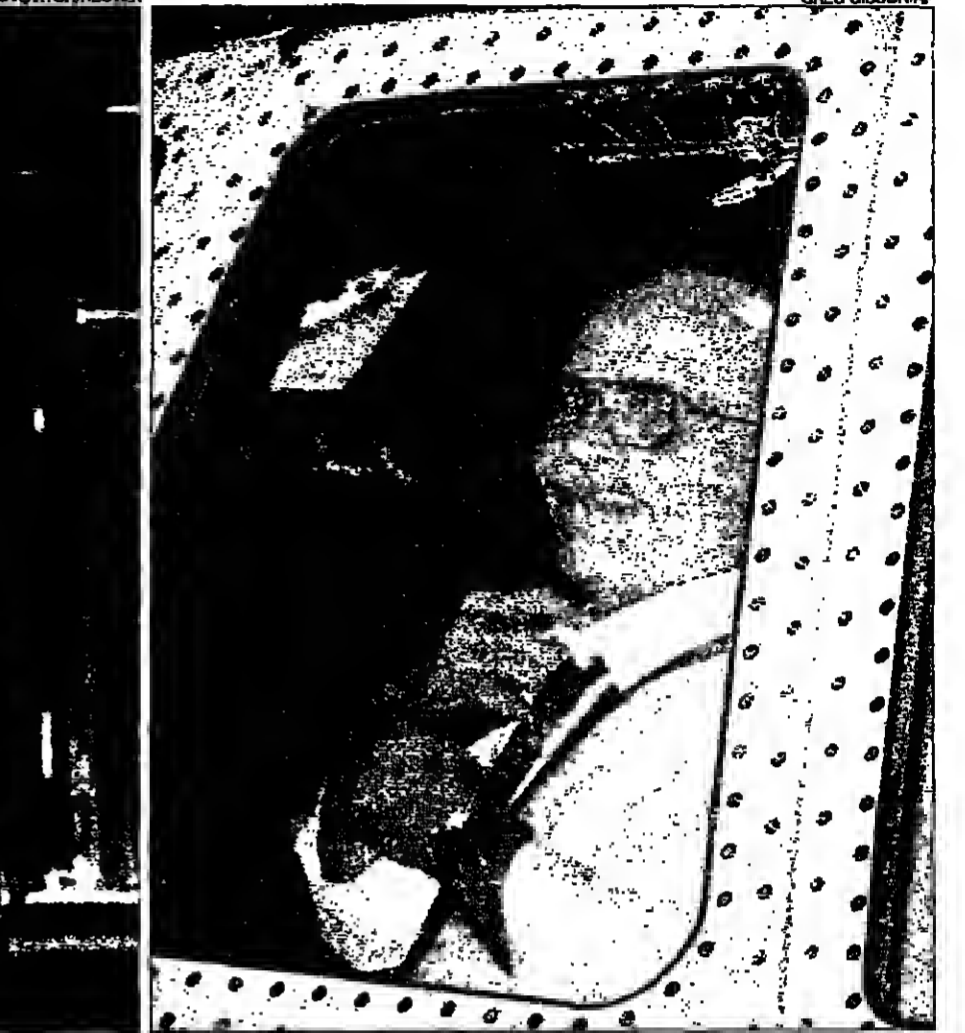
Exactly a year ago the same two leaders signed an historic accord establishing Palestinian control over much of the West Bank.

EU ministers blame Israel

Luxembourg: Europe shifted away from neutrality over the latest Middle East flare-up yesterday and singled out Israel as the main source of last week's violence between Jews and Palestinians (Charles Bremner writes). After a meeting with Yasser Arafat, European Union foreign ministers called on both sides to "exercise the utmost restraint" to prevent further violence.



Benjamin Netanyahu, left, arriving at his Washington hotel...



King Husain in the cockpit of his plane at Andrews Air Force Base

Netanyahu is warned over threat to borders

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ON THE eve of the Washington summit, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was warned by the most senior members of his defence and intelligence staff that any fresh Palestinian violence would be likely to spread to Israel's borders with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Aviv, which said the warning was presented by a high-ranking officer. The newspaper said those attending the meeting included Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff, Major-General Moshe Yaalon, the head of Military Intelligence, and high-ranking members of Shin Bet, the Israeli equivalent of MI5.

border with Egypt close to the Israeli resort of Eilat, and the border running along the Jordan Valley and Israel's troubled northern border with Lebanon.

much any clashes between Israel and her Arab neighbours would be restricted to borders only, one envoy said.

According to Haaretz, the top-level briefing also established new firing orders for Israeli forces in the event of further Palestinian attacks.

Crowds in Peking mark birth of nation

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

TENS of thousands of Chinese braved chill rain in Tiananmen Square yesterday to celebrate the founding by Mao Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China 47 years ago.

A new portrait of Mao was mounted overnight across the front of Peking's Tiananmen Gate, from the rostrum of which he proclaimed on October 1, 1949: "The Chinese people have stood up."

Across the vast square, in front of his mausoleum, there was a picture of Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China, flanked by two red lanterns symbolising the return of Hong Kong to Peking control on 30 June next year.



Sun Yat-sen's picture in Tiananmen Square yesterday

gatherings of more than a few people have been broken up, though foreign hotels have been left alone.

There was no sign of China's senior leader, and the ailing Deng Xiaoping, 92, and there was only light security in the small street where he lives behind the Forbidden City, suggesting he was not at home.

Wary Bonn issues Bosnian refugees with notice to quit

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German authorities, dismayed at the huge costs of sheltering Bosnian refugees, were yesterday preparing to send back the first of 320,000 people to an uncertain future in their ruined homeland.

Earlier this year, says 17-year-old Sanela Hubic, a bright Sarajevo girl, "I was sure that it was better to return to Sarajevo with all of its problems, than to stay unhappily in the safety of Germany."

There can be no more vulnerable moment for the German image abroad; memories of Nazi deportation still flicker in many countries and any suggestion of force or pressure will rebound badly.

Mrs Justice Arbour, a Canadian judge, took over as Chief Prosecutor at the United Nations war crimes tribunals yesterday with the task of bringing to justice those responsible for genocide and crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Nigerians sing praises of leader

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

Abuja: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, celebrated Independence Day yesterday without the traditional military marches.

He announced the creation of six states as part of his plan to restore democracy by October 1998.

Kiev: Wild mushrooms have killed 92 people in Ukraine and put more than 1,000 in hospital in the deadliest mushroom season in years.

Skeleton rewrites American history

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AN ANCIENT skeleton unearthed in America's Pacific Northwest has cast doubt on the theory that the New World's first inhabitants were exclusively of Indian stock.

For decades North America's aboriginal peoples have been presumed to be descended from Central Asian and Siberian nomads who migrated across the Bering land bridge during the last ice age.

The complete skeleton of a middle-aged man emerged two months ago on the shores of the Columbia River in Washington state.

In accordance with current US law on Indian burial sites, the Army has said it will hand over the skeleton to Umatilla elders within 30 days.

Labour Party advertisement: The Labour Party is based on the founding principle that the individual does best within a strong and unified society...

Tyson defeated in \$4m legal bout

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MIKE TYSON, the world heavyweight boxing champion, accused a jury of racism after he lost a court action against Kevin Rooney, his former trainer.

boxer was found to have broken an unwritten 1982 promise by his former manager to pay the trainer 10 per cent of his fight winnings.

ny. New York, Mr Tyson attacked the decision of the all-white federal jury as "ridiculous", claiming that the jurors did not like him because he was black and rich.

Mushrooms kill 92 in Ukraine

Kiev: Wild mushrooms have killed 92 people in Ukraine and put more than 1,000 in hospital in the deadliest mushroom season in years...

Weekender Plus advertisement: GREAT VALUE WEEKEND BREAKS ACROSS EUROPE AND FURTHER AFIELD FROM ONLY £40 PER ROOM PER NIGHT BREAKFAST INCLUDED



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PEARCE FIONDA: Saturday Night Chic



NICOLE FARHI: floral



ANTONIO BERARDI: graffiti as fashion



ROCHA: pretty smart



CLEMENTS RIBEIRO: all frills



FRITH: new mood



ROLAND KLEIN: the best yet



ALEXANDER McQUEEN: anarchy in the United Kingdom from fashion's front-runner

The brouhaha that accompanied this season's London Fashion Week, which came to a close last Saturday evening, was unbelievable. During four days of non-stop catwalk shows (on the hour every hour), the very best of British fashion designers previewed their latest lines for spring/summer 1997. You can probably still hear the applause.

After several years when London looked like fading into the background as Paris, Milan and New York each took their turn in the spotlight, there was a palpable buzz.

No longer are our young designers viewed as flash-in-the-pan fly-by-nights. Instead

they are watched with considerable interest by the international fashion pack and admired for their radical vision.

There are few more rebellious, or far-sighted, than Alexander McQueen. His show was the highlight of the event. An event in itself, McQueen turned the giant Royal Horticultural Halls in Victoria into an indoor swimming pool. His models paraded in a pool of 3in-deep water, 100 metres long and 20 metres wide, which acted as a catwalk. Wearing clear Perspex wedge-heeled shoes, they appeared, quite literally, to walk on water.

McQueen certainly cuts some miraculous clothes. Ex-

LONDON

Iain R. Webb applauds a new wave of Britpack designers

quiescently beaded Jazz Age fringed dresses looked remarkably sophisticated, as did clingy transparent dresses embroidered with cherry blossom and swirling Chinese dragons. Likewise his viciously tailored trouser suits in rose-pink brocade and icy-white matt sequins. However, McQueen

could not resist a little anarchic fun, so he sliced them up with zip fasteners, or spray-painted them with slashes of brightly coloured paint. Far from ruining them, it added a shockingly modern edge. Quite magnificent.

Another designer who used graffiti art to decorate a beautifully tailored jacket and a pair of brocade trousers was Antonio Berardi (while in the artist's studio, look out for Jackson Pollock paint-splatter prints). Although Berardi showed only a relatively small collection, his influence grows each season. This time he was in a classical mood — gladiator jackets with vast shoulders were shown alongside filmy, draped-toga dresses, pleated

centurion skirts worn with wickedly waspie corsets and little-nothing dresses embroidered with posies. Extremely romantic.

This rediscovered "prettiness" pervaded the shows, with designers offering lots of lace, fragile antiqued fabrics and frills with everything.

The mood was shared by several designers, including Bella Freud and Workers For Freedom, but best exemplified by the collections of design duo Clements Ribeiro and Paul Frith. Brightly coloured wrap-and-tie georgette dresses with waterfall frills were evident in both collections, as were slinky jersey dresses, cartoonish floral prints as favoured by Margo Leadbetter in *The Good Life*, and little short-sleeve shirts. While Clements Ribeiro favoured smock tops, Frith cut draped plunge-front blouses. He also showed a one-shouldered, asymmetric top which will no doubt be seen everywhere on the international catwalks.

John Rocha produced a strong showing, which opened with smart suits and coats in soft, creamy leather and ended with diaphanous evening gowns with frilled mermaid tails in pallid shades of blue, grey, coffee, flesh pink and biscuit — sometimes the two mixed. Rocha's designs featured shells and starfish plucked from the seashore.

Water appeared a recurring theme, from myriad blue hues (from pale aqua to dark navy) which coloured almost every collection, to the overhead projection of the bubbling deep used by the designer Hussein Chalayan. Sedly, his collection felt flat. Chalayan cuts great suits (this season predominantly grey and ever-so-neat) and his beaded diamond dresses were elegant enough, but the image was more than a touch relentless.

Amanda Wakeley also suffered from RSS (repetitive silhouette syndrome). Her look was unswerving. The endless variations on all-in-one tuxedos, pinstripe suits and slithery full-length dresses featuring revealing draped necklines and a classy version of a boob tube (a trend, just got boring. Pretty boring, mind you).

Design duo Pearce Fionda also showed identical-looking panelled satin-back-crepe evening dresses (in muted blues, silver greys and custard cream) over and over as the finale of their salon show. Instead of providing a dramatic exit, their previously pricey collection of languid lounge-lizard looks (all chic, *Saturday Night Fever* trouser suits, sleek dresses and pom-pom frizz hairdos) coloured black,

grey and creamy white, simply ground to a halt.

It seems that nothing can stop the established designers from joining in the fun, as London finds itself back in the limelight. The collections of Nicole Farhi, Roland Klein and Margaret Howell have never looked better, each interpreting the mood-of-the-moment for their customers. Katharine Hammett was back on form with a sexy show full of razzamatazz — beads and sequins, pinstripe suiting and embroidered denim, which few do better than Hammett.

Ben de Lisi continued to pare down the wardrobe, offering little tie-front tops, asymmetric skirts, and whip-lash thin straps, while best at Betty Jackson were jersey separates in colourful diagonal stripes and a pale blue, glittering lace, pants suit.

But perhaps the biggest surprise of the season was the collection of Tomasz Starzowski, best known for his flamboyantly idiosyncratic style. This season saw a new Tomasz — frilled shirts worn with understated fluted suits, long, striped jersey dresses

and evening dresses in ivory or navy, cinched at the waist with shiny cucumberbuds. Pared to the bone, the end result was much simpler, much prettier, much more modern.

This season the Britpack designers proved that they are truly back on track. Things haven't looked this good since the 1960s, when London ruled the fashion waves. Everybody says so. Don't believe the hype? Believe me, you should.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS



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مكتبة فون الأما

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Sarah is not fair game

What does the public hounding of the Duchess of York say about our national character — how can we treat anyone like this?

Who? The Sun asked its readers yesterday. "Would you rather date... and note the bestial suggestiveness, the implication of that dot-dot-dot — 'Fergie or a goat?'"

It is odd, as a journalist, to find oneself coming out to defend the Duchess of York, but I do feel it's time to ask why we feel how we could feel, it is justifiable to treat anyone like this.

I hold no brief for Fergie, nor do I have any affection for the Royal Family, any faith in the monarchy, but this isn't about that: it's about what it is acceptable to do to any one person. Day after day, she is bombarded by the tabloids, crucified in print. And because she is generally considered a person not worthy of sympathy or concern, it doesn't matter: anything is sayable.

I don't think it is the first duty of journalists always to think about the effect our words might have on the feelings of those we're writing about. There is such a thing as fair comment. But equally so, it is possible to go beyond the boundaries of fair comment.

I am not setting myself up as a paragon: one of the few pieces I regret in my journalistic path is an article I wrote — for another paper, incidentally — which expatiated upon the so-called Squidgy tapes. It's not that I feel I shouldn't have done it from a moral point of view, but I can't help feeling it reflected badly on me that I did. To be frank, who of us could stand up to having our private phone conversations scrutinised? Most of us would sound baitily, self-obsessed, self-pitying or worse.

I am not preaching total abstinence, however. By invading one's own privacy spectacularly, it is possible to give licence to blame people for their own bad press, but it might, at times, be rather more to the point if those who claimed to be victims accepted their own responsibility in the matter.

But none of this accounts for the cruelty of the national character now. Yes, one can blame the press, point the finger at the tabloids, as we all do, but the fact of the matter remains that we are, as a people, seemingly intent on believing that once someone is a public figure then they don't deserve to be treated as a private person. More: we seem to believe that their being a public figure justifies in itself our opprobrium, that once someone is famous, they lose



Nigella Lawson

the right to have their feelings considered, or indeed to be thought to have any feelings in the first place. They don't count.

In the instance of the public hounding of Sarah Ferguson, the excuse that's used is that she's a member, or former member, of the Royal Family. The *Mirror* can claim, thus, to be proudly republican in spirit, questioning the value of the monarchy and exposing corruption at the highest level. Republicanism has nothing to do with it. If you think the monarchy shouldn't exist, then you think that however individual members of the Royal Family behave: it is hunching to pretend otherwise.

Tony Benn and David Hare, to cite two respectable people who have spoken against the monarchy, have made a point never to talk about individual figures. They sense, rightly, that to do so would be to lose any claim to intellectual integrity. I doubt, moreover, that they have any desire to do so: their argument is a political one; to use that excuse to justify the tabloid onslaught is so much opportunism.

Another excuse that's trotted out in justification here is that Fergie is self-evidently losing it, as if believing someone to be loopy were reason enough to try to send them further over the edge. (Much the same rationale is used to justify the endless Diana stories.) But it doesn't make sense. I am not saying one shouldn't print adverse stories about — as it is in this instance — Sarah Ferguson or that one shouldn't gossip, but I think those who do seem committed to having her committed should be prepared to take the consequences of their actions. If I were either of these two women who have been recently liberated from the Royal Family, I'm not sure how I could keep my cool or sanity under such an onslaught.



The constant drip-drip-drip of hostile press comment aimed at the Duchess of York is a torture of a kind

one cannot help but be embarrassed, as if by being reasonable one fears one is sounding pious.

Of course, I don't think this carping can be legally prevented, but surely it should stop? You cannot go on day in, day out undermining someone, attacking them and attempting to destabilise them without that viciousness having some sort of effect. The constant drip-drip-drip of hostile comment is a torture of a kind.

It is not a question of where one's coming from — left or right, to state it in antiquated fashion — because if we believe, as we would if we were civilised, that birth, behaviour or occupation have nothing to do with a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity as a person, then privilege can be no more a disqualifier than poverty.

The attack doesn't come from the press alone, of course. In some sense it is just the conduit.

It is the betrayal of the exotically-styled Madame Vasso which must give rather more cause for personal sorrow. And I don't say the Duchess is to blame for it, but if you must go to cranks, I suppose it isn't so surprising if they act crankily. But that's another great false truth of the age: "healers" must be better than doctors, more trustworthy, more concerned with the whole person.

Yes, well... At least a proper doctor or therapist would be constrained by a professional code of ethics and would run the risk of being struck off for not complying with it. Go to see a woman who peddles her psychic powers under a plastic pyramid and there's no protection.

But that, while significant, is incidental. The behaviour of desperate people, however foolish, does not deprive them of the right to be treated with any dignity, even if you think they don't deserve sympathy. It's not a question of special pleading, but straightforward humanity. But... if you take the money, and you are in the public eye, you are up for grabs" as one reader, purportedly congratulating the *Mirror* on its great journalistic scoop, puts it. Well, everyone thinks like that now.

The prevailing view of the age rules that the hunting of animals is an irredeemable evil, but any human being, if they're famous enough, and especially if they're female, is just fair game.

Treating his patients as partners

A GP in the 1950s was a pioneer of the early NHS, says Anjana Ahuja

Dr Julian Tudor Hart would have made a formidable politician. After several minutes spent listening to the minutiae of an historic medical dispute, I prod him again on why he chose to study medicine. "I'm just coming to that," he says irritably.

Driven by socialist ideals inherited from his middle-class doctor parents, Dr Hart became a medical pioneer. He qualified in 1952 in the early days of the National Health Service, which promised healthcare for all regardless of wealth. By the mid-Sixties the collision between his politics and his passion to help people proved fruitful — he discovered that, contrary to medical opinion, heart disease was not only a rich man's affliction but was rife among the poor.

He revolutionised general practice by becoming the first GP really to study his patients, examining their patterns of diet, smoking and blood pressure. This was no easy achievement — his subjects were 2,000 sceptical inhabitants of Glyncoffwg, a poor mining village in South Wales. To conduct his research, he had to persuade them to do things which must have seemed outrageous at the time, such as giving stool samples.

Assisted by his wife Mary, who was equally dedicated, Dr Hart also managed to take the blood pressure of every villager — the last man in the village to acquiesce had a reading so high it was off the scale. By doggedly pursuing his convictions, Dr Hart had saved a life. He quickly gained the confidence of his patients, and they in turn saw their health improve and their lifespans lengthen.

Dr Hart's work on blood pressure led to a paper in *The Lancet* in 1970 which earned him the respect of his peers

and a voice in the medical establishment, but with his outspoken political views he quickly became the thorn in its side.

Dr Hart, now 69, stood for Parliament three times under the Communist banner, as a way of injecting some socialist ideas into the election.

"I realised that medicine and the National Health Service were right at the centre of politics, even though most doctors and nurses regarded themselves as non-political," he says. "But they were involved in one of the biggest social revolutions of our times." He is to be honoured in a BBC documentary which will be shown on Monday.

He showed that heart disease was rife among the poor

In 1973, Glyncoffwg became the first practice to be funded by the Medical Research Council. In some ways, it was a victory for Dr Hart, who once conducted research for the MRC epidemiology unit as a newly qualified doctor. He loved research but left because of its conventions. "There was no exchange between doctor and patient," he recalls. "We had to be totally impartial observers."

That frustration prompted him to seek a captive population to study, which led him to Glyncoffwg. And here was the MRC again, acknowledging that his philosophy of combining study and care, at odds with its own ethos, was a success.

Dr Hart, now retired, retains forthright views on the NHS: "I would like to see a turn in the tide of commercialisation. We must get away from this idea of patients being consumers. They work with doctors to produce a better understanding of medical science. We pioneered the idea of patients as partners, and it's unstoppable."

The Good Doctor, October 7, BBC2, 9pm

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CHANGING TIMES

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Cowboys not wanted

John Young on an industry that is working hard to clean up its act

The public image of the building industry in Britain is not one of which it can be proud. Regardless of the merits of the end product, for which the architect usually gets the blame — or occasionally praise — the process of construction is regarded as, at best, an irritation and, at worst, a nightmare.

The industry's economic importance is indisputable. It accounts for more than 8 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product, with an annual turnover of nearly £50 billion, and it provides employment for more than 2.5 million people.

But for millions of homeowners the abiding horror is that of the "cowboy" builder who takes twice as long to do the job for which he is engaged, charges twice as much as he originally estimated and greets any criticism of his work with outrage, and even abuse. When he is on a building site he is similarly foul-mouthed, and wears his trousers too low. Over 97 per cent of the 40,000 annual complaints to trading standards departments emanate from non-federated builders.

The Building Manager of the Year awards, presented last night in London, are an attempt to overcome that image. Their winners (see facing page) have gone to great lengths to provide a professional and considerate service. Indeed, there are many companies, both large and small, to which none of these criticisms would apply, which give value for money and whose employees behave responsibly



Builders are sweeping away their bad image

industry leaders are well aware, none more so than Keith Banbury, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Building. Nothing could be further removed from the dirt and noise of a building site than the secluded mansion outside Ascot, in Berkshire, where the institute has its offices. But it is from here that Mr Banbury and his colleagues are directing their efforts to cleaning up the construction industry's image.

"Construction is not environmentally friendly; we freely admit that," he says. "But what we want to do is to minimise its adverse effects."

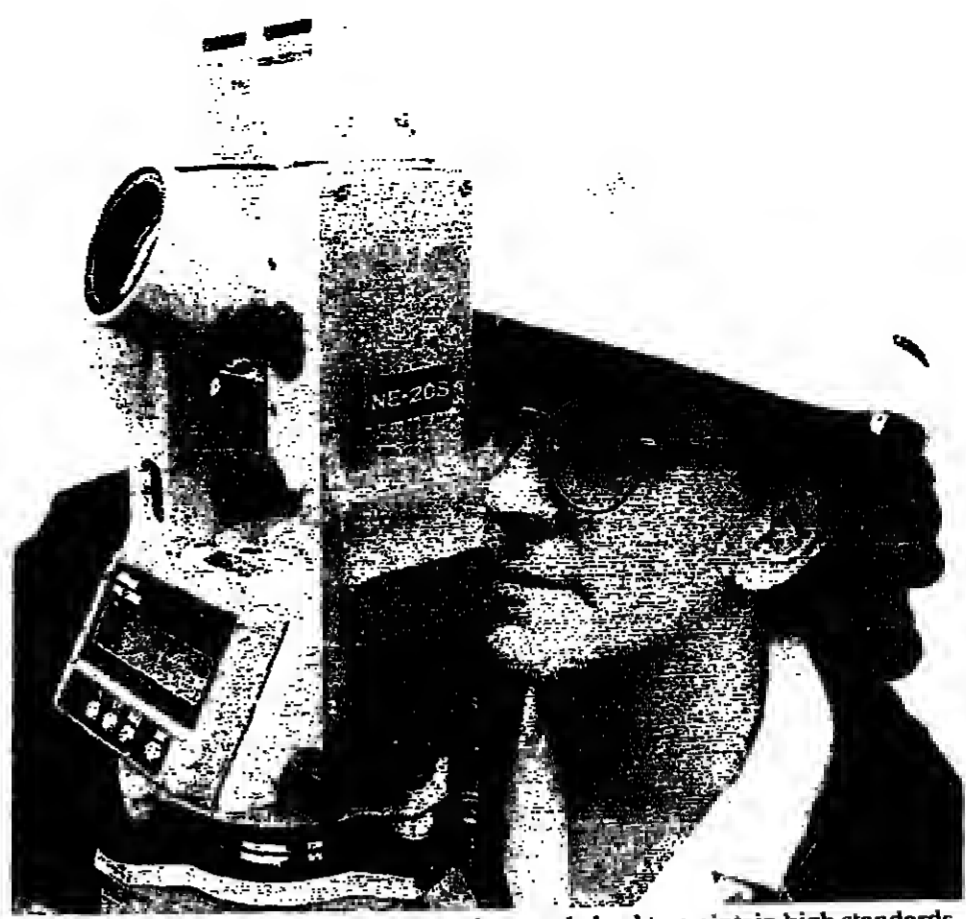
"Broadly speaking the industry divides into two parts: the muddy boots and the professional. Unfortunately it's the muddy boots that get all the publicity, and we are out to redress the balance."

Because the industry is so unregulated, anyone can set up as a builder," Mr Banbury says. "When he makes a mess of it, someone else has to be called in to sort it out. But the public are also often to blame, because they try to get things done on the cheap rather than call in one of our members, for example."

Since the Privy Council approved the establishment of the Chartered Building Company scheme — the Council must authorise any use of the word "chartered" — it has met an enthusiastic response among the institute's 33,000 members.

Complementing it is the new Considerate Constructors scheme, which was introduced on a pilot basis at local level this summer.

"We see all this as being not only in our members' interest but in the public interest," Mr Banbury says. "We're not just a trade union or a trade association ready to defend our members at all costs. We've just thrown two of them out for breach of our code of conduct."



A close eye: Chartered Building Companies are pledged to maintain high standards

'No one can pull the wool over my eyes'

How does the president of the CIOB see its future?

When Tony Palmer asks his staff to do a job, he knows what he is talking about. As he says without a hint of boasting: "I can still do every job they do and they can't pull the wool over my eyes. I've been there."

Mr Palmer joined Taylor Woodrow at 16 and has been with the group ever since. He started as a junior surveyor and was sent to college at 11 to qualify as a chartered surveyor and chartered builder.

He knows about life at the bottom. When he was five at the end of the war, his family was bombed out of their home in Deptford, South London, and left with nothing. They were rehoused in an Anderson

will leave the company in good shape. This year he has been president of the Chartered Institute of Builders (CIOB).

He hopes to pass the flame on burning even more brightly. Despite the recession, membership has continued to grow and now stands at 33,000. He believes that it will continue to grow to 60,000 over the next ten years.

The industry has changed and so must the institute, he argues. Although professional bodies are often seen from outside as genteel and stuffy, Mr Palmer retains the competitive spirit that has seen him rise through the ranks.

"The institute is the natural home of constructors and construction specialists," he says. "It brings together all types in the construction process from facilities managers to project managers. We are among the top three or four institutes and we want to be the premier one."



Tony Palmer says: "I am the product of a training scheme. If we don't train we don't prosper"

More than ever the standing of an institute depends on its reputation and status as well as the number of members. To say you are a chartered builder, it does matter on your CV,

is something that differentiates one person from another." Mr Palmer argues that there is now greater emphasis in building and construction on management of the team.

"One topic that is almost certain to ignite passions is the question of the institute's name and the title used by our members," he says. "Our name has served us very well for a long time and I know that the vast majority of our members share my pride in being associated with the Chartered Institute of Building. However, just as the industry is undergoing a radical re-examination of its structure and identity, so the time has come for us to reconsider whether the terms building and builder still provide an adequate umbrella for the many different professional activities carried out by our members."

In July the institute set up a partnership agreement with the smaller Architects and Surveyors Institute. While the two bodies will remain independent with their own professional qualifications, dual

membership is being encouraged and the CIOB sees this as a first step towards developing an alliance of professional institutions in construction.

Mr Palmer thinks that the difficult past six or seven years have made membership of an institute more important as reputable members of the industry distance themselves from the cowboys. He regards the term "builder" as an honourable one, but he says that the CIOB is a construction institute and that should be reflected in the name.

His year in office sees the formal launch of a new training scheme. "This comes at a time when most of the companies I have known have disbanded their training centres, creating a vacuum which the CIOB now has an opportunity to fill," he says. "When the hard times came, training was easy to cut. I didn't like that because I am the product of a training scheme. If we don't train we don't prosper."

The CIOB has set up its own centre which produces courses designed to meet the needs of individual companies. Mr Palmer says: "It is like having an in-house centre but it is in the institute building. Companies say what they want and the institute arranges it and gives them the time and the venue. All they have to do is send the people and pay the bill."

Mr Palmer does not see an easy road ahead for the construction industry. He says: "Things are happening and the industry is doing slightly better, but we don't want to shoot up a graph and fall off the end again."

A lesson well learnt

If anyone carries the construction industry's torch, it is Dean D'Eye. Born 30 years ago in Brixton, south London, by his own admission he squandered most of his time at school and at Lambeth College of Building. A change of heart took him back to college where he progressed from City & Guilds to Bachelor of Science, and in 1990 he founded his own company, Kered Contracting Limited, with £1,000 savings.

To start with he ran the company from his spare bedroom, determined to both "achieve the highest possible standards" and to put something back into the inner-city community. Last year he won the construction industry's Young Achiever of the Year Award.

One of his most cherished accolades is membership of the Chartered Institute of Building. "Our status as a Chartered Building Company (CBC) has meant that clients look upon us as professionals," he says. "It has helped immensely in getting Kered's name on to tender lists and has contributed significantly to our development."

"But I think over the years the scheme can do much more. We're an under-educated industry. We should be helping medium-sized firms with their training, teaching them to manage cashflow, write business plans and learn



Dean D'Eye: great plans

the art of delegation. Eventually I'd like to see an accreditation body, awarding building firms stars, like the AA does."

Mr D'Eye's commitment to improving standards and to the local community is reflected in his launch of a code of practice for sub-contractors and his sponsorship of training facilities for young people. He has also promoted the employment of women in the construction industry.

Kered specialises in refurbishment and maintenance for housing associations, NHS trusts and local authorities, but it has also won contracts from a number of leading commercial companies. In its first year its turnover was £70,000. This has since grown to an estimated £4.3 million in 1995-96.

JOHN YOUNG

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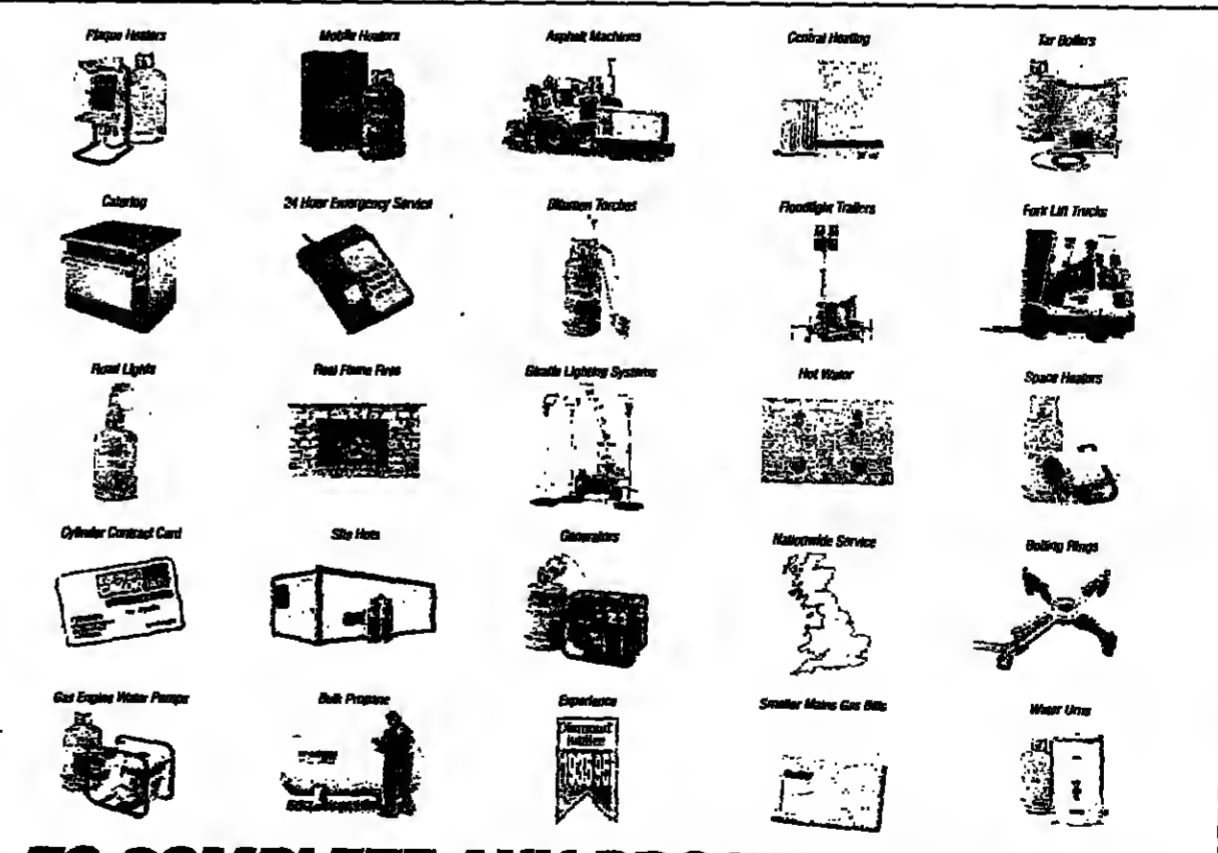
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Today's intrusion will be tomorrow's historical record

Don't close your eyes to the news

THIS week sees fresh attempts to learn the lessons of Dunblane. A seminar, Reporting Disasters, was held in London yesterday by the Association of British Editors. Today the British Film Institute opens a three-day conference on the use of newfilm, in which Katie Adie, among others, will discuss the ethics of violent news on television.

The lesson, however, lies in between the two perspectives. As the BFI's Story of the Century will demonstrate, today's intrusive reporting is tomorrow's historical record. This paradox lies at the heart of the report on Dunblane just published by the British executive of the International Press Institute. It shows that the press can be massively intrusive without behaving badly. In any small town, let alone a disaster site, the arrival of 300 journalists and their clobber is tantamount to an invasion.

Where does their moral duty lie when they find themselves moved to the point of tears? To Richard Tait, IFTN's Editor-in-Chief, Dunblane was "an almost uniquely shocking event". Sadly, that is not true. The BFI's newfilms show how common horror is, even in a British setting. For people huddled round a schoolyard waiting for dread news, look back to Aberfan, 1966. For hatred of the media for recording the horror, there was Farnborough, 1952. When a supersonic jet fighter broke up in mid-air and an engine plunged into the crowd, killing 28 people, David Samuelson, the Movietone News photographer, was attacked by the crowd to stop him filming.

Who would forgo those images today? In the flickering black-and-white footage, we see more than grief. We see the look of a South Wales valley village when there still was a mining industry. We see what early 1950s children wore when dressed up for a day's outing. We see the smiling confidence in supersonic flight of the pilots climbing into their doomed aircraft. These pictures may have intruded on private grief at the time. They are now historic documents. Yet some things have changed irrevocably. Photographic equipment is unbelievably lighter, while the press corps is bigger, massively so, and international, ready to descend at a moment's notice from corners of the globe, with no knowledge of, let alone sensitivity to, local feelings.

assassin's mother) was owed to two uncharacteristic acts of self-restraint. One was the collective decision of editors not to interview the bereaved families and to leave Dunblane before the funerals. The other was the acceptance of the usually despised figure of the official minder. The IPI report rings with praise for the police, British Telecom and the Scottish Office, for helping the press to do its job. The lesson of Dunblane is that disasters in this news-competitive age need spin-doctors. If a man who finds that his partner is expecting octuplets needs a Max Clifford, so does Pompeii the day that Vesuvius blows its top. (The BFI conference will see fabulous footage of the 1944 eruption.)

Reliance on spin-doctors, of course, is poison to the journalist. So too is collective action. Even at mundane events, I hate to see reporters budding together at the end, agreeing on the main news and the actual words of a quote. And traditionally the "pool" on major occasions with limited access - a small representative band acting for a larger number - has been regarded as an unfortunate necessity. Now, such is the crush of newsgatherers, the pool may become the norm.

But I wouldn't put the clock back. A proliferation of news outlets is a good thing. What counts is what the reporter makes of what he or she sees - and, in television, what their editors allow the public to see. Not enough, Martin Bell, the BBC's veteran foreign correspondent, is heroically outspoken on the sanitisation of television news. Reporters, he says, are not allowed to show the blood and pain of war. He has also hit out against the pernicious concept of 24-hour rolling news. Amen. Nothing is more guaranteed to cause press intrusion than pressure to find a new angle for the next deadline.

If the ethics of television news are to be endlessly debated, the viewing public must recognise its part. There must be a greater tolerance for the spectacle of grief. It is not pornography to show people weeping wildly when getting the news that everyone dreads. It is racist to accept pictures of weeping in Baghdad or Rwanda but not in Britain. It is time to abandon the "Is there honey still for tea?" approach to television news. Whether the horror is leaders hanging from lampposts in Kabul or bodies being carried out of Dunblane school, we have no right to look away.



BRENDA MADDOX

Leading bright of Albert Square

GLUM faces have been spotted in the costume department at Elstree studios in Borehamwood. News has reached staff that Nigel Bates, the professional fool of Albert Square, is soon to depart EastEnders for pastures new.

The reason for their melancholy, however, is not that they will miss Paul Bradley, the actor who plays Nigel in the BBC soap. It is rather that they will miss his outfits. Rooting out a selection of garish shirts and luminous kipper ties of the type favoured by the hapless Nigel has proved one of the precious few creative tasks of EastEnders costume workers who watched Ricky Butcher wear the same blue overalls and Pauline Fowler the same tatty maroon overcoat and matching scarf for five years. A campaign has apparently



Nigel Bates: garish shirts

already begun to transfer Nigel's natty wardrobe to his bosom friend, Grant Mitchell.

NOT content with turning the once socialist Daily Mirror blue for a day, Pepsi is now turning to a far more loveable institution, Father Christmas. Eager to steal a march on their deadly rivals at Coca-Cola, the Pepsi admen are rumoured to be drawing up a Yuletide campaign in which Santa's traditional red cloak turns a wintry blue. The idea is more cunning than it seems. In 1931 it was Coca-Cola which hired the

artist Haddon Sundblom to produce a picture of Santa in the red and white company colours, an image which has since become universally recognisable. But the feeling is that the £300 million Project Blue has not been as successful as hoped. According to Campaign magazine it has resulted in a slight drop in Pepsi sales while Coca-Cola claims to have won the day with its sponsorship of Euro 96.

Brand new votes WHAT do Marks & Spencer, Virgin and the Andrex puppy have in common? According to a new survey, they are the British brands which the public considers to be more reliable and trustworthy than Tony Blair.

In the week of the Labour Party conference, the Superbrands Council has released findings from a survey of advertising brands which showed that people find PG Tips more stimulating and exciting than either Labour or the Conservative Party. No surprises there perhaps, but one piece of research is interesting. Tony Blair and John Major are now apparently almost indistinguishable from each other in the electorate's eye. When asked to

profile each party leader by the brands they might use, members of the public imagined that both drive BMWs, both read The Economist and drink John Smith's bitter, both holiday with Thomas Cook and both wear Calvin Klein "although John Major might just opt for Yardley". "If anything Tony Blair was perceived as slightly more upmarket than Mr Major," said a spokesman.

ENEMIES of Alastair Campbell, press secretary to Tony Blair, will be disappointed if they hoped Monday's spin-doctor-bashing Panorama programme had helped to scupper his career.

On the contrary, Campbell's star is so much in the ascendancy that Mr Blair is being urged to promote him to even greater heights as a Sarah Hogg-type special adviser should Labour win the next election.

Hotly tipped to step into the Campbell shoes is the jolly media commentator Roy Greenstone who, while lacking Campbell's intellectual pretensions, does have a solid background in tabloid newspapers (having worked at the Sun, Daily Mirror and Daily Star) and is a protégé of the news bunny himself, Kelvin



Alastair Campbell: top tip

MacKenzie. Campbell's foes will be doubly frustrated if this does happen - Greenstone is also one of Campbell's closest friends.

Down the street

AFTER 26 years of faithful following, the producers of Sesame Street have finally made a concession to their British fans. To coincide with the new series to be shown on Channel 4, approved sets of costumes for Big Bird and Ernie are being shipped over to be used for celebrity appearances at charity events.

Spending boom masks slim profits



The Bisto Kids are being "retired"

BUOYANT news from adland: clients spent more money, agencies made better profits, and more people were employed in the industry in 1995, according to a new study by the specialist consultancy firm, Willott Kingston Smith.

On paper, it was the best year since the start of the decade. The highest-paid director, WPP's Martin Sorrell, collected a chunky £2,647,000 remuneration package - up an encouraging 125 per cent on 1994 - while the industry's gross income increased by 9 per cent and the number of employees rose by 5 per cent.

But beneath the showy figures lurks a slightly grimmer tale. The stats do not distinguish between advertising agencies and other marketing services companies, thus masking what has been a "serious shift" in client cash away from ad agencies in favour of direct marketing and media independents, says the firm. And of the seemingly impressive £20

ADVERTISING

billion marketing spend, the industry in total made only £191 million in profits before tax - a margin of less than 1 per cent. No real reason for a return to 1980s-style champagne-drenched festivities, therefore.

TALKING of money, actors are bracing themselves for the new round of negotiations that will set their pay levels for starring roles in ads over the next five years.

In a few weeks' time the actors' union, Equity, will sit down with representatives from the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers and the Advertising Film and Videotape Producers Association, no less, to begin thrashing out the details of the new agreement. Talks should be of a fairly colourful nature. The last time the bodies met, in

1991, negotiations lasted for 12 months as the sides scrapped over the controversial move to replace the repeat fee system with a payment scheme that was audience-related.

ANOTHER advertising icon bites the dust. The 80-year-old Bisto Kids, as it were, have been brutally dropped and replaced by Julie Walters as the new Bisto face.

Ms Walters plays Yvonne, a Delia Smith-lookalike daytime TV celebrity chef, who introduces the celebrated gravy granules in a new £52 million press and TV campaign as "altogether a better idea than doing something out of a book with giblets".

Meanwhile, we are assured that reports of the death of another advertising icon, Direct Line's red wheely telephone, were greatly exaggerated. The phone will be safe in the hands of its new agency, Mortimer Whitaker O'Sullivan, which won the £13 million account off TBWA last week.

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READ THE FACTS - FORGET THE HYPE David joined us 2 weeks ago. He's a bright guy but had an experience of selling advertising space. We trained him intensively for the first week and paid him. We will continue to pay him. In his second week David sold his first page of advertising for £4,800. We paid him £720 and gave him some champagne. David is good but not special.

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Al Madina Plastic Factory, Ltd WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE RECRUITMENT 'SALES MANAGER'

SALES AND PROMOTIONS COPYWRITER MUSIC AND BOOK PUBLISHING SOHO, WI The Music Sales Group is the largest publisher worldwide of printed music, covering a wide range of music.

On the front line in Dunblane

Journalists who reported on the slaughter at Dunblane Primary School on March 13 faced the most traumatic event imaginable. How have they coped?



THIS week the British executive of the International Press Institute published a collection of memoirs from the journalists who covered the Dunblane massacre. Peter Preston, its chairman, asked them to detail their emotions and experiences for the book, *Dunblane: Reflecting Tragedy*, "to capture the feeling of what it was like, the real building block for future policy". Here two journalists, one Scottish and one London-based, who covered the story for *The Times*, recall their experiences.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

When I was asked last May to write my own memories of covering the Dunblane massacre, I was glad of the opportunity. Since the killings two months earlier I had thought of very little else. I live in Stirling, five miles from Dunblane and a stone's throw from Thomas Hamilton's flat. My husband is a consultant psychiatrist for the area. When we moved to the Forth Valley three years ago we unsuccessfully offered on a house three doors down from Dunblane Primary School. This tragedy happened in my own community. Neighbours, friends and my husband's colleagues were involved and there was no possibility of my jettisoning it with the rest of the press pack once the immediate story had been covered. But even without the constant geographical reminders, it would have been impossible to banish Dunblane from my mind. There is a particular difficulty in reporting a tragedy in your own community. The size of the press corps in a town the size of Dunblane meant intrusion was inevitable. Toes get stepped on and feelings get trampled unintentionally. If those feelings and toes belong to friends, it is exceedingly difficult. Practically every friend and acquaintance had a story to



A town in torment: parents in Dunblane in shock after the tragedy — most journalists were themselves grief-stricken, as they wrestled with the problem of how to report the story

tell. My husband arrived home with news of the first psychotic patient who believed herself responsible. He told me of a local GP whose five-year-old daughter attended the same nursery class as the victims. He was planning to attend nine funerals, with his daughter. My next-door neighbour, also a doctor, told how one of her colleagues, a pathologist, had been helping with the medical emergency only to discover that her own daughter was one of the dead. The problems of reporting something so huge when it is happening in your own community are obvious. You cannot put 300 journalists into a town the size of Dunblane without intruding. Journalistic instincts and personal instincts clashed. There was satisfaction at doing a job well, in being on top of an incredible news story. But there was also huge grief. I found it a terribly harrowing time. Then there was the peculiar juxtaposition of work and domesticity. I was grateful to return home each evening to my husband and child; not to some anonymous hotel room; but how, the day after the massacre, could I concentrate on my daughter's second birthday? Mr Preston's request allowed me to examine in a less fragmented way the im-

STEPHEN FARRELL

I had never heard of Dunblane before March 13 and I am not a parent, so my first response to the massacre was inevitably less visceral than Gillian's. But even on the flight-up from Heathrow it was obvious from the muted, sombre behaviour of the assembled journalists that this story was different. Dunblane was a major tragedy and most of us probably wanted to cover it ourselves rather than read colleagues' accounts from 400 miles away. But everyone knew they were lying into a concentration of grief and horror that few had ever encountered, and none of us knew how we would cope. What we knew was how such situations magnify a thousandfold the impact of one insensitive action or remark. My immediate task was to concentrate on the life and times of Thomas Hamilton, but with no immediate leads I headed with a photographer for Dunblane Primary School. We were barely out of the car when an elderly lady stopped us. Experience told us that camera bags and notebooks normally invite a volley of abuse, but instead she simply asked if we knew anything. Many locals, it later emerged, were simply frustrated at the lack of information coming from police and found journalists their only source of news. Journalism in such circumstances has its own problems. Usually the police are several steps ahead of the press "pack" and reporters must wait hours to learn names and addresses. But Dunblane and Stirling are small communities, and the sheer number of correspondents flooding the area

meant they were running ahead of police almost from the start. Aware of this, newsdesks in London, Glasgow and Edinburgh were desperately trying to agree guidance for their staff on the ground, but for the moment reporters had only their own instincts to tell them who should and should not be approached, and which questions should be left unasked. In fact, common sense dictated what to do. Nobody wanted to trample on grief, and most reporters were experienced enough to know what was acceptable. Over the next few days papers agreed not to approach the victims' families, and to cobble together tributes to the dead from other sources. All was not perfect. Rumours circulated of the odd flare-up between journalists and staff in an hotel, or the occasional unthinking comment over dinner tables in restaurants, but they never became public incidents. Then as quickly as it erupted, the story disappeared. On day five Central Scotland Police suddenly withdrew all media facilities in the town, saying the families did not want us at the forthcoming funerals. The evacuation was very rapid. Broadcast vans, hundreds of yards of cable and batteries of microphones vanished in minutes. In common with most newspapers, *The Times* had no intention of defying the families' wishes and we were ordered out. Five minutes after the decision I strode out of the press hall in Dunblane. Two months later I was back, for Lord Cullen's public inquiry. The same people we interviewed in the hours after the tragedy told their tales again. Those who knew Hamilton well were by now downplaying their knowledge. Those who had little to do with him exaggerated their roles. For some the calm, legal atmosphere provided detail and some catharsis, but I certainly felt no closer to knowing what went on in one man's mind on March 13. I still have no idea.

Triumph for the press

The front page of *The Guardian* yesterday will become a classic of British journalism. It was dominated by a four-column picture of Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP. Above, across eight columns, Mr Hamilton was described as "A liar and a cheat". We all know that there are cheats and liars in British public life but Britain's libel laws are so strict that liar, cheat, corruption and deceit are words we rarely see in newspaper headlines. But yesterday *The Guardian* was celebrating a great victory for investigative journalism after Mr Hamilton and Ian Greer, the parliamentary lobbyist, decided to withdraw from a £10 million libel suit against the paper. They had sued *The Guardian* over its report in 1994 — when Peter Preston was Editor — that Mr Hamilton had accepted thousands of pounds for asking parliamentary questions for Mohammed Al Fayed's Harrods group and that Mr Greer was the middleman. An estate Alan Rusbridger, now Editor of *The Guardian*, was entitled to his triumph (which he shared with Mr Preston and which was also and unusually relished by his Fleet Street rivals). Editing is always a lonely job but never more lonely than when an editor is fighting a libel suit which could cost his company £10 million. That is half the £20 million pre-tax profit *The Guardian* Media Group declared this week. Mr Rusbridger also confronted a seemingly intimidating opponent in Mr

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

Hamilton, who appeared utterly confident of victory and determined to destroy *The Guardian*. He was so confident that he recruited 421 Conservative MPs and peers to overturn a clause in the 1689 Bill of Rights and support an amendment to the new Defamation Bill allowing MPs to waive parliamentary privilege to pursue libel actions. Only last month he boasted that he would expose *The Guardian's* "corruption" and its peddling of "sensational fantasy". Yet it was not sensational fantasy on the part of *The Guardian* but old-fashioned reporting skills that did for Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer. After a tip to Mr Preston, the first report on Mr Greer, heavily cut by its lawyers, was published by *The Guardian* three years ago. It followed a six-week investigation by David Hencke and John Mullin who traced about 15 of his former staff. Mr Hencke then co-operated with *The Cook Report* who bugged Mr Greer as he offered to work for actors masquerading as Russian communists seeking access to Whitehall. The report was abandoned by television but published in *The Guardian*. The story appeared on the day that John Smith died and failed to make the impact it deserved. After meeting Mr Al Fayed, Preston decided to go public again in October 1994.

all 20 companies. On one day, Mr Robertson asked for 84 research documents. It was detective work and it got more and more exciting. Mr Hencke said yesterday, especially as several deep throats emerged among staff who had been upset by their treatment by Mr Greer. The team obtained Mr Greer's company accounts and Mr Hamilton's bank accounts. They decided to subpoena John Major and Michael Heseltine. The tactic worked. The most exhilarating day for *The Guardian* was last Friday when 150 pages, including details of Mr Hamilton's cross-examination by party whips, Michael Heseltine and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, arrived from Downing Street. It was only then that they knew they would win. With the documents from Downing Street, Mr Robertson decided to exploit what libel lawyers describe as the "Goussinsky gambit" — lulling the plaintiffs into a sense of false security by letting them drop the action with only a £15,000 contribution to the defendant's costs — and then damning them with supporting details obtained during preparation of the defence — as *The Guardian* did yesterday. The courage of Mr Preston, Mr Rusbridger and *The Guardian* in keeping their nerve under fire did a significant service for the British press. Guilty men once thought suits for libel against Fleet Street offered rich and easy pickings. After this victory and that front page, they will think very hard before seeking to emulate Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer.

Cilla works her magic, but ITV rethinks the weekend

THERE was a huge sigh of collective relief within ITV this week: Cilla had pulled it off. The first estimates of audiences for Saturday night showed that *Blind Date*, which started its twelfth series at the weekend, had attracted more than ten million viewers. The curse afflicting ITV's so-called "people shows," which has been hitting the ratings this year, ran only so far. *Blind Date*, which sprang from a 1980s impulse to make temporary stars of ordinary people, was still lively enough, like a sprightly granny. Most crucially, ITV had, by a thin margin, won a larger share than arch-rival BBC1. But the evidence that commercial television is having a rethink and is reducing its reliance on people shows is only too apparent. Marcus Platin, ITV's network director in charge of a £600 million annual programme budget, used a glibly programme launch last week to drop heavy hints to its paymasters, the advertisers, that its weekend schedule was being taken apart. In the search for a new balance, ITV is having to face up to some harsh truths. One is that LWT's ability (as the traditional weekend programming powerhouse) to come forward with new hits across the range of entertainment and drama suddenly evaporated in the 1990s with conse-

OFFER & COMPETITION THE TIMES

BUY ONE BOOK TO GET ONE FREE

The Times is offering students one of 10 books FREE when you buy a book from either the Penguin Classic series or the Penguin 20th Century Classics list from a Blackwell's bookshop before November 30, 1996. The list of free books is on the voucher which was published in *Freshers, Guide to Student Life*, delivered free with Monday's *Times*. All the details of this offer are on page 10 of the Guide. You need to collect a further three tokens to add to the one which appears on the voucher.

Win your rent for a year

Blackwell's Bookshops, in association with Penguin Books and *The Times*, offers you the chance to win a cheque for £2,000 towards your rent — and there are three cheques to be won. Simply collect three of the six tokens in *The Times* this week. Attach them to the prize draw entry form (published on Monday) and send it with your name, address, course and institution to: Win Your Rent Prize Draw, PO Box 8381, London SE7 7ZE. You must be a full-time student. Closing date: November 1, 1996.

<p>THE TIMES</p> <p>WIN YOUR RENT FOR A YEAR</p> <p>TOKEN 3</p>	<p>THE TIMES</p> <p>2 FOR 1 BOOKS</p> <p>TOKEN 3</p>
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CHANGING TIMES



The Guardian yesterday



Saved by Cilla and Blind Date

MAGGIE BROWN

NEWS

Blair pledges age of achievement

Tony Blair offered Britain a five-year contract under which he would lead it into a new age of achievement and end "17 years of Tory hurt".

In an inspirational address to his party conference, Mr Blair urged the voters to "come home to Labour" and made ten vows for his first government. This was his covenant with the people: "Judge me upon it. The buck stops with me"..... Pages 1, 6, 7

Former Tory whip took lobbyist cash

A former Tory whip admitted that he had accepted money from Ian Greer, the political lobbyist, and had failed to disclose it in the Commons register of MPs' interests. Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, told The Times he had accepted an introduction fee from Mr Greer for bringing his lobbying company new business..... Page 1

The Soviet Bond

A spy code-named Bond was recruited by Russian intelligence to steal British secrets during the Second World War more than a decade before 007 was to turn the tables on the Soviets..... Page 1

Fertility safeguards

Tighter legal safeguards on fertility treatments are needed to prevent the creation of "exceptional" families, a leading British specialist said..... Page 5

Inner city crisis

The head of one of Britain's most deprived schools told top independent schools that the state system was in "meltdown" in the inner cities..... Page 8

Cambridge fees

Cambridge may be forced to introduce tuition fees for students within five years, its new vice-chancellor said..... Page 2

Booker favourites

The acclaimed writer Beryl Bainbridge faces stiff competition from the debut novelist Seamus Deane for the 1996 Booker Prize. Bainbridge has been shortlisted three times..... Page 3

Teresa Gorman fined

Teresa Gorman and her husband were each fined £3,000 for changing their 16th-century farmhouse without listed building consent. The case ends a two-year wrangle between Thurrock Council and the MP for Billericay..... Page 3

Maclean's downfall

The KGB message that eventually unmasked Donald Maclean as a Soviet spy was about a visit he made to New York to see his wife..... Page 4

Golden office

A tiny top-floor office in north London, reached through a narrow doorway between two shops, is where one man earns £50 million a year..... Page 5

Sellers letter for sale

The jealousy that racked the Peter Sellers was disclosed in a letter he wrote to Britt Ekland shortly after they married. It is part of a collection of Miss Ekland's property, which, it is estimated, could fetch £80,000 at auction..... Page 8

Afghan showdown

The seemingly invincible Taliban army, now in control of three-quarters of Afghanistan, reached the mouth of the Panjshir Valley for a decisive battle with government forces..... Page 9

Cuba challenge

The European Union raised the stakes in its dispute over America's anti-Cuban trade laws by deciding to challenge the action before the new World Trade Organisation..... Page 10

Emergency summit

President Clinton launched an emergency White House summit to rescue the Middle East peace process..... Page 11

Pot channel overcome by high tech

Cannabis Telsa-vision (Ctv), an Amsterdam TV venture to promote the "positive side" of marijuana use, appears to have gone up in smoke. The channel was due to be beamed from Amsterdam to 37 countries. But just a few hours before the deadline for a pilot programme, the channel's staff abandoned the project, apparently too stoned to carry on..... Page 9



Cardinal Cahal Daly, who was 79 yesterday, handing over as Primate of All Ireland to his successor, Dr Sean Brady. Page 4

HEATHROW

A planned £50 million fast rail link between the City and Heathrow Airport, backed by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, could be in operation by 1998 if the project gets the go ahead from BAA later this month..... Page 25

FOOTBALL

An Irish consortium has agreed terms with Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, to buy the club and move it to Dublin. Legal documents could be drawn up within a week..... Page 48

SILENT OPERA

Lindsay Kemp uses his unique mime talent to turn Büchner's story of Woyzeck into a bizarre chamber opera set in a circus sideshow..... Page 32

PROVOCATIVE OPERA

Richard Jones's Die Walküre is a triumph at Covent Garden with magnificent playing harnessed to controversial staging..... Page 33

ECONOMY

The Chancellor received healthy news of British manufacturing industry with orders and output up sharply but price pressures remaining low..... Page 25

RUGBY UNION

The future of the Anglo-Welsh tournament was thrown further into doubt when Neath withdrew from their game against Wasps at only 48 hours' notice..... Page 48

STYLISED OPERA

Opera North's new production of Gluck's masterly Iphigenia in Aulis presents it unconvincingly as an allegory on the National Lottery..... Page 33

BURN-OUT OPERA

With money apparently no object, Venice ponders the problem of how best to restore the shell of La Fenice opera house after the disastrous fire last January..... Page 34

BRITISH GAS

In the latest revelation of billings, a disgruntled customer was refunded £5,500 which had been wrongly withdrawn by direct debit..... Page 25

SAILING

Three days into the BT Global Challenge race faulty rigging screws on the yachts could cause problems as the fleet heads towards Cape Finisterre..... Page 46

EQUESTRIANISM

The rehabilitation of the Horse of the Year Show continues at Wembley Arena with a new image..... Page 45

MARKETS

The FT-SE 100 rose 38.5 to 3992.2. Sterling was unchanged at 87.0 after rising to DM2.3864 and steady at \$1.5640..... Page 28



IN THE TIMES

Geoff Brown sees Kate Winslet and Christopher Eccleston in Jude, the Thomas Hardy saga. Also: Matthew Parris on new Labour, Roy Porter on Europe, Norman Lewis on badlands.

HOW TO BEHAVE IN A BOOM

The best advice for buyers and sellers in the housing market..... Page 35

NEVER IN 17 BITTER YEARS

Never in 17 bitter years of opposition has the Labour Party been so self-confident. But it is the voters and not the delegates who have the final say and Labour is still a long way from having gathered in its electoral flock. It is still possible that the Conservatives return to power and that Labour has peaked too early..... Süddeutsche Zeitung

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,288

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27.

- ACROSS: 1 Clerk given directions about copy (6). 4 Very bad time to dismiss conclusions expressed in precise terms (10). 10 One who's perpetually nine? (9). 11 Guide drug-dealer disposing of first of pot (5). 12 Mundane one in athletic club lagging behind experts (7). 13 What's turned up with boy reaching end of infancy? (7). 14 Ancient writers found in dusty libraries (5). 15 Abusive villain in cycle of operas (8). 18 A lot of pain in face a bishop tries to control (8). 20 Sound of horse that's close, coming round end of house (5). 23 A small volume about central Serbia is bitter (7). 25 Man had died in vehicle in Somerset town (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,287. BARSACK GALLOWAY... CRITERIA JACK... TIAPFISTIVY TIRREIN

WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0203 500 followed by the appropriate code. Greater London: 702. Kent/Surrey/Sussex: 703. Dorset/Wiltshire: 704. Devon & Cornwall: 705. West Midlands: 706. East Midlands: 707. North/South Coast: 708. West of Scotland: 709. Shropshire/Worcestershire: 710. Central Scotland: 711. East of Scotland: 712. East of England: 713. W & S Yorks & Dalbs: 714. N.W. England: 715. Cumbria & Lake District: 716. S.W. England: 717. S.W. Scotland: 718. E. of Scotland & Borders: 719. E. of England: 720. G. of England: 721. Cheshire, Derby & Shropshire: 722. N. Ireland: 723. W. Ireland: 724. AA Roadwatch is charged at 50p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Cloud, Max, Min.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations. Columns: Location, Sun rise, Sun set, Moon rise, Moon set.

FLIGHT SAVERS

Flight saver advertisements: LONDON TO HAMBURG from £123 return, LONDON TO FRANKFURT from £99 return, LONDON TO COPENHAGEN from £99 return.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad. Columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Cloud, Max, Min.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations. Columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations. Columns: Location, Highest, Lowest.

Lifeboats

Lifeboats advertisement: Total number of lives saved so far this year: 671. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 3,243. Cost to taxpayer: £173,000. To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210.

سكذات الاصل

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ARTS What kind of opera house will rise from La Fenice's ashes? PAGES 32-34



HOMES How a property expert buys a family house PAGES 35



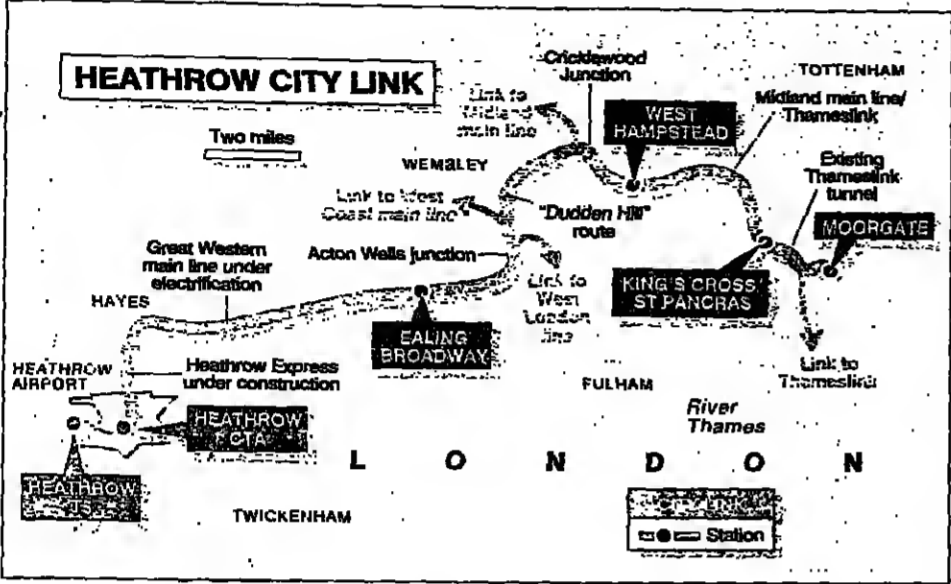
SPORT Ravanelli move to United dismissed as wishful thinking PAGES 43-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 1996

Branson sets 1998 target for City-Heathrow rail link



By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent. A £30 million fast rail link between the City and Heathrow airport, backed by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, could be in operation by 1998 if the project gets the go ahead from the British Airports Authority later this month.

A Virgin spokesman said the company hoped to put in an order by Christmas for a fleet of new electric trains with onboard check-in facilities if BAA gives the go ahead. A spokeswoman for BAA said: "We are still considering Virgin's proposals and no decision has been made."

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Dow Jones, and various market indices.

Output and orders rise

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent. THE Chancellor yesterday received news of a healthy combination of circumstances in British manufacturing industry with orders and output up sharply in September but price pressures remaining low.

House of Fraser to shut shops as losses grow

By Alasdair Murray. HOUSE OF FRASER, the department store group, yesterday revealed plans to close up to ten stores - with the loss of hundreds of jobs - as the company attempts to improve its lacklustre financial performance.



Cutting their cloth: Richard Scott, left, finance director, and John Coleman, chief executive

Threat to tunnel rescue scheme

By Our Transport Correspondent. EUROTUNNEL faced a new threat to its refinancing deal last night as rumours swept through the Paris and London stock markets that an agreement will be announced today.

Air group buys Boeing cargo arm

By Oliver August. IN THE first large acquisition since its £3.2 billion merger, LucasVarity yesterday bought the cargo systems arm of Boeing, the American aircraft group.

British Gas 'money saver' takes £5,500 in error

By Oliver August. BRITISH GAS wrongly debited £5,500 from a customer's bank account after he moved to a new billing system to save money.

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage services, featuring a 5.99% APR offer and contact information: 0800 71 81 91.

House of Fraser seeks to fashion a recovery Heathrow link no flight of fancy Sydney's private sector stadium plan

Put to the carrier bag test

IT IS a familiar process, a stately pavane of ritual steps by which a business comes off the ropes and rehabilitates itself in the eyes of the City. Take one severely blotted copybook. Add a new management parachuted in from outside, lots of red ink and wretches down and much talk of refocusing. Wait for a while, and then see if it works. If not, start again from afresh.

lines such as furniture and electrical goods any more. House of Fraser has always had too many old, tired shops, too widely spread around the country. Mr Coleman and his team say they aspire to attract new breeds of customer, such as well-off career women with well-developed fashion tastes. Well, aspire away. At the moment the shops are crowded with too wide a range of bog-standard clothing.

lost out on the retail boom and risks being caught in any post-election downturn. It has missed the party but faces the hangover. Tony Shure, at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, is shooting for £16.5 million in profits this year even before writedowns, down from earlier estimates of £25 million pre-tax. The shares, which were floated at 180p in April 1994, are now worth 158p.



that it will snapper its own plans for the Thameslink 2000 project announced earlier this year. But it is not clear how much the Government can do if the private sector willpower is there. BAA and Railtrack are privatised bodies and the first stage of the scheme, at least, would need no parliamentary approval. Having privatised the railways, ministers cannot be too indignant if entrepreneurs spot opportunities to make money from them, particularly if no public subsidy is involved. There is a clear market for the service, even if the impact on the Heathrow Express is not easy to predict.

mean genuine private sector railways as opposed to the mere franchising of British Rail, this scheme should go ahead. The real loser would be the City airport, sold to Irish entrepreneur Dermot Desmond a year ago by John Mowlem, its builder, for a bargain basement price that might one day not look like such a bargain. There could also be some alarming of the Light to Canary Wharf. Forget the City for a moment. With the M4 into London under intolerable pressure and Crossrail temporarily shelved, there is a strong transport case to be answered. If privatisation is to

Winners and losers in the Olympics

BILLY PAYNE, the American who took the 1996 Olympic Games to Atlanta, now owes his bank \$300,000 and is still trying to work out whether the games made a profit or a loss. Atlanta's chaotic effort will now go down in history as the games that failed to win the traditional "best games ever" seal of approval from the International Olympic Committee.

a standard American sports ground, but the 34,000 eventual holders of the Sydney shares will get more than 30 years of membership of the stadium club and entry to most events staged long after the games are over. To find a real Olympic winner, however, one needs to go back to Peter Ueberroth, organiser of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. He toured the world giving lectures, was honoured with Time magazine's Man of the Year award and enjoyed the ultimate American accolade. He became baseball commissioner. City lights ANDREW Thomas's appointment as chairman of Limelight Group, the home improvement company, shows just how powerful the City mafia has become. Manchester City, that is, Mr Thomas's day job is chairman of Greenalls, the pub company with 17 per cent of Man City.

Limelight founder's 50% stake valued at £85m

By Alasdair Murray

STEPHEN BOLER, the founder of Limelight, which specialises in fitted home improvement products, will see his 50 per cent stake in the company valued at about £85 million when the company comes to the market next month. Mr Boler, who started the company 14 years ago, is expected to sell the majority of his stake so that he can concentrate on his other business ventures, which include a recently opened 60,000-hectare game park on the edge of the Kalahari desert and the Mere golf and country club. Mr Boler also owns a 13 per cent stake in Manchester City Football Club.

Advisers which owns 21 and ADT which holds 16 per cent, are also expected to reduce their stakes after the float, which is likely to value the company at about £170 million. The company said yesterday it had no plans to raise any money from the flotation. Limelight owns about 555 showrooms across the UK, although it is concentrated in the South of the country. Its main brands include Moben Kitchens and Kitchens Direct, Sharp Bedrooms, Dolphin Bathrooms and Portland Conservatories and Windows.

streets across the country. The company would also consider making further acquisitions, although Mr Cotter said the main thrust of its strategy would be to continue building the company's existing brands. Last year, the company made an operating profit of £13.5 million on a turnover of £134 million. The company also appointed Andrew Thomas, executive chairman of Greenalls, as non-executive chairman after the resignation of Mr Boler from the post of chairman. Mr Boler will continue as a non-executive director. The prospectus will be published this month and dealings are expected to commence in mid-November. The float will be sponsored by NM

Rothschild & Sons, with Cazenove & Co acting as brokers. The company has grown substantially in the past few years, tripling the number of outlets since 1993. Limelight has also won a number of concessions at leading DIY chains, such as Homebase and Laura Ashley. The company is able to offer a complete service from manufacture to installation. Mr Cotter said that the company had been enjoying the benefits of the recent upturn in the consumer market, with all its main businesses showing an improvement. But he added that the kitchens business had grown fastest as the kitchen is typically the first area that consumers look to improve.

Rothschild corporate initiative

By George Sivell

BARON David de Rothschild is to chair a committee being set up within NM Rothschild, the London merchant bank, to coordinate corporate finance business around the world in an effort to compete effectively with Swiss, German and American rivals. The move follows top-level departures from the corporate finance department of NM Rothschild. The move is seen in the City as reinforcing Baron de Rothschild's chances of succeeding Sir Evelyn Rothschild as chairman. The deputy head of the committee will be Russell Edey, head of corporate finance in London. Tony Alt and Keith Palmer will become joint chief executives.

Imperial receives warm welcome from market

By Fraser Nelson



Lord Hanson: first demerger

IMPERIAL TOBACCO, the demerged tobacco arm of the Hanson conglomerate, was given a warm welcome to the market as its shares fetched a strong premium which beat City forecasts and valued Britain's second-largest cigarette producer at £2.25 billion. Imperial's shares, placed at 375p, opened yesterday at 395p, which added an instant £86 million to its market value. After touching 395p, they closed at 393 1/2p. The jump in price disproved speculation that Imperial's market debut would be overshadowed by Labour's announcement that it intends to outlaw tobacco advertising if it wins the next general election, and the news from UK lawyers that they will file class action against tobacco companies on a "no win, no fee" basis. Until that announce-

leave the corporate family. Its demerger has cost less than £10 million in annual overheads, requiring little more than a separate treasury, and a mechanism to serve its shareholders. While it was a part of Hanson, Imperial handled its own affairs, including taxation. In 1995, Imperial's turnover was £3.57 billion, from which £2.82 billion was paid as duty. After costs of £399 million it made a profit of £348 million before tax, 6 per cent more than last year. Hanson has devolved £1.1 billion of debt to Imperial, leaving its former subsidiary with net liabilities of £1 billion on its balance sheet. Millennium Chemicals, the titanium dioxide maker, is the next Hanson subsidiary to be spun off. The company's shares started trading on the New York Stock Exchange this morning.

Rank plays Trump card for growth

From Richard Thomson in New York

RANK, the restaurants and leisure group, is in talks with Donald Trump, the flamboyant American property developer, to give a Hard Rock Café theme to the Trump Castle casino in Atlantic City. The talks appear to be part of a programme by Rank - now the sole owner of the hugely successful Hard Rock Café restaurants - to expand the 58-branch chain aggressively. The move would also help Rank to compete with the fast-growing Planet Hollywood restaurants, which have a foothold in several casinos. Mr Trump is looking for ways to boost the popularity of his Atlantic City casinos to fight competition from Las Vegas. He is already familiar with the Hard Rock - one is opening in his Taj Mahal casino in November. Giving the gaudy Trump Castle a new theme has become a top priority for Mr Trump since the restructuring of his hotel and casino group last week. "We are in discussion with a number of companies including Rank," said Eileen Manahan, a Trump spokesman. Although Rank refused to say whether it was talking to Trump, some observers believe the company may be considering buying half of the Trump Castle casino for about \$350 million.



Rank is preparing to expand the Hard Rock Café chain

Rescue cash dents Lloyd Thompson

By Marianne Curfey

THE Lloyd's of London rescue, plus other one-off expenses, have caused a £15 million drop in pre-tax profits of Lloyd Thompson, the international insurance broker. Full-year profits fell to £5.3 million after Ken Carter, chief executive, decided to pay the company's £4 million contribution towards the rescue plan in total this year, rather than over five years. Even after other exceptional charges, including a £4.6 million litigation settlement and provision of £7.6 million for costs of a surplus office block in the City, Lloyd Thompson has £45 million of spare cash. In spite of the profit fall, the City liked the results, and the shares rose 12 1/2p, to 182p. Mr Carter said he would consider an acquisition that "made sense", but said the insurance market was likely to deteriorate in the next year. "Too many people are chasing a finite amount of insurance business," he said. "Rates have been cut by 20 per cent across the board." Other brokers have different views of industry prospects. Willis Corroon says it sees no shareholder value in takeovers at present, and Sedgwick feels there is too little business for the current number of players. A 7p final dividend is proposed, to make 11p, up 2p. Fully diluted earnings before exceptional items rose 3 per cent, to 16.8p a share.

Two jailed over deposits fraud

By Robert Miller

SWIFT action by the Bank of England's enforcement team led to the conviction yesterday of three men on charges of inducing the public to hand over nearly £40,000 in deposits and using forged documents. The successful prosecution of the three is part of the Bank's campaign to warn people of the dangers of parting with their money to unauthorised firms and dealers. Peter Lennon, 54, from Bournemouth, and Roger Charlesworth, 50, from Southampton, were sentenced to 21 months and 18 months in prison respectively, after pleading guilty to various charges under

the Banking Act relating to unauthorised deposit-taking and other offences under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act. A third man, Paul Hyans, 33, also from Southampton, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service. Passing sentence on the three men at the Inner London Crown Court, Judge Quentin Campbell said: "This was a tragedy in the making for potential investors from which the public needs to be protected." At the time of the offences, Charlesworth and Hyans were directors of a company called Homesafe (Insurance Consultants), which also traded as Charlesworth Hyans Associates. Lennon

joined the firms to advise on marketing the financial services side of the business. The three men became involved in a proposed property deal in Florida but having failed to raise the money through conventional means they attempted to pull in the funding through newspaper advertisements. They advertised a special Heritage Bond offering guaranteed returns. More than 300 people made inquiries and six deposits totalling £39,000 were handed over. The Bank of England, however, received a tip-off and raided the offices within days of the advertisement. As a result of the prompt action the deposits were recovered and eventually returned.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Market poised to break through the 4,000 level

THE London stock market looks poised, at long last, to breach the 4,000 level when trading resumes this morning.

It follows another positive performance yesterday, with share prices finishing at their best of the day.

Brokers attributed the market's performance to the strength of bonds and the growing awareness of the build up of institutional funds outside the marketplace.

Hanson traded 1/4p lower at 94 1/2p in its new slimmed-down form. This follows the demerger of Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals as part of a four-way split.

Trading in Imperial Tobacco got off to a brisk start, with the shares opening roughly in line with expectations at 37p before touching a peak for the day of 39 1/2p.

BAT Industries responded to Imperial Tobacco's positive performance with a rise of 1/4p at 43 1/2p. However, the industry faces a number of joint actions from tobacco-related illnesses and the Labour Party has already said it will ban tobacco advertising if it wins the general election.

Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator, marked time at 22 1/2p after reporting that the group had added more than 185,000 subscribers during the third quarter.

The electricity companies bounced back after Monday's



Shares of Imperial Tobacco closed at a premium of 18 1/2p

threat by Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, to introduce a windfall tax on the privatised companies. East Midlands Electricity climbed 1 1/2p to 53 1/2p.

Recent high-flyer Pan Andean Resources lost more than half its stock market

Keep an eye on Caird, the waste disposal group that returned to the black and the dividend list last month under the leadership of John Farrell, its chairman.

value as the shares plunged 7 1/2p to 40 1/2p after a disappointing drilling report. Last night the Stock Exchange said it would be looking closely at heavy turnover in the shares prior to the announcement.

Pan Andean said that the well being drilled at Todos Santos X-1 in the Chapare Block off Bolivia does not contain commercial quantities of hydrocarbons. The group said it would not have been in the best interests of shareholders and was now looking for other ways to enhance value.

Half-year figures from House of Fraser, the struggling retailer, were every bit as bad as feared, leaving the price 4 1/2p lower at 158p. Half-year losses of £13.6 million (£4.3 million) were worse than brokers had anticipated. John

Clifford, the new chief executive, said the cost of reorganising the business may be as high as £50 million. But the group refused to elaborate on claims that 1,000 jobs are to be axed.

Shares in Cobham rose 3 1/2p to 669 1/2p on the news that it had been selected as the preferred bidder for a £400 million, 15-year contract to supply aircraft and personnel for the new Joint Service Defence Helicopter Flying School.

Half-year figures are expected next week, with brokers looking for an increase in pre-tax profits of around £5 million at £19.5 million.

Cardinal Business Group, the office equipment and parcel services group, slumped 4p to match the year's low of 12p after announcing increased losses. The pre-tax deficit grew from £747,000 to £1.2 million. There is no dividend.

Hewlett-Packard, the plant hire group, was in confident mood ahead of half-year figures later today, with the price adding 5p to 135 1/2p. It is expected to produce another impressive performance, showing a pre-tax profit of £3.5 million to £19.7 million in spite of the depressed conditions in the building industry.

Bluebird Toys advanced 5 1/2p to 145 1/2p after the group completed a buyback of 3 million shares, equivalent to 6.59 per cent of the issued share capital, at 149 1/2p. A total of 3.55 million shares changed hands by the close.

GILT-EDGED: Talk that a major hedge fund was about to switch out of US Treasury bonds provided a firm start to the Lodon bond market. Gains accelerated later when the National Association of Purchasing Managers' survey for September provided further evidence of a slow-down in the economy.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt climbed £1 1/2 to £109 1/2 as a total of 81,000 contracts were completed. Demand was greatest at the longer end, producing a slight flattening of the yield curve. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £9 1/2 better at 100 1/2, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 put on five ticks at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares lattered near unchanged levels, drawing little support from a surge in bonds. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average stood at 5,881.05 points, down 1.12.

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TEMPUS Hanson's bouncing baby THE City cannot be accused of harbouring grudges. After months of sneering at the Hanson demerger, investors gave a surprisingly warm welcome to Imperial Tobacco Group, the first of the baby Hansons to start their first life on the stock market.

JD Wetherspoon RUMOURS of bids and American investors are keeping Wetherspoon on the boil. Since January, shares in the pubs group have almost doubled in value. With the market expecting profits of more than £18 million for the year to July 1997, the stock is trading on a forward multiple of 23 times earnings, compared with 15 times for Whitbread.

LucasVarity LUCASVARITY has wasted no time in revealing the second half of its new strategy after the £3.2 billion merger of Lucas Industries, the British automotive and aerospace equipment company, and Varity Corporation of America.

ASH & LACY THE COLLAPSE of the copper price took some of the shine off Ash & Lacy's half year figures which otherwise showed the benefit of its takeover last year of CI Group, a rival West Midlands metal processor.

MAJOR INDICES New York (midday): Dow Jones 5881.05 (-1.12) S&P Composite 687.13 (-0.20) Tokyo Nikkei Average 2162.97 (-0.43) Hong Kong Hang Seng 11921.22 (+16.79) Amsterdam EOE Index 576.93 (+0.03) Sydney AO 2285.5 (+4.9) Frankfurt OAX 2655.73 (+3.88) Singapore Straits 2171.69 (-5.47) Brussels General 9796.30 (+31.36) Paris CAC-40 2123.21 (-4.60) Zurich S&A Gen 780.80 (+0.00) London FT 30 2861.7 (+26.9) FT 100 3922.2 (+35.5) FTSE Mid 250 4409.8 (+18.7) FTSE 250 1986.6 (+16.8) FTSE Eurotrack 100 5921.72 (+24.6) FT All-Share 3762.47 (+15.29) FT Non Financials 2063.19 (+17.24) FT Fixed Interest 114.06 (+0.15) FT Govt Secs 93.99 (+0.26) Bargains 49.32 SEAQ Volume 709.6M USM (Discount) 200.44 (+0.58) USM 1,560 (Share) 2,389 (+16.01) Exchange Index 87.0 (Share) Bank of England official close (4pm) EBCU 1.2629 RPI 153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987-100 RPIX 152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987-100

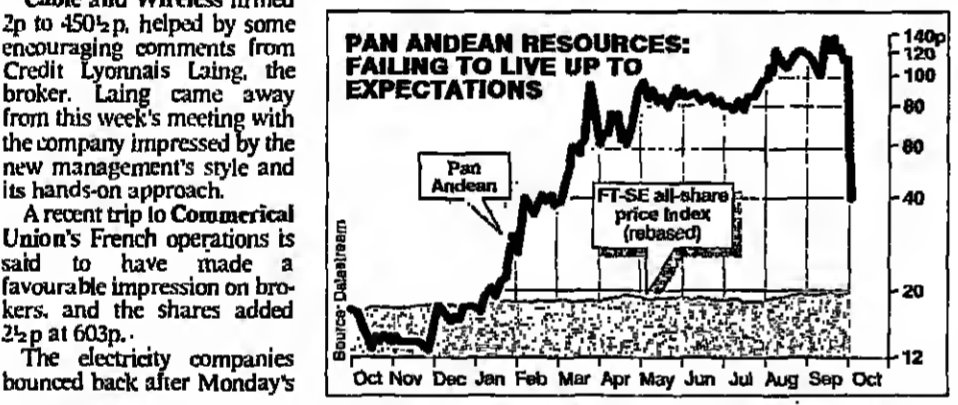


Table with columns for various commodities like LIFTS, CRUDE OILS, WHEAT, BARLEY, etc. Includes prices and changes for different grades and regions.

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Table with columns for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES. Includes FTSE 100, FTSE 250, Three Month Sterling, etc.

Table with columns for MONEY RATES (%). Includes Base Rate, Discount Rate, Treasury Bills, etc.

Table with columns for GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co). Includes Bullion, Silver, Palladium, etc.

Table with columns for DOLLAR RATES. Includes Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, etc.

Table with columns for FTSE VOLUMES. Includes ASDA, ASDA, ASDA, etc.

Table with columns for EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%). Includes Currency, 7 day, 1 month, 3 month, 6 month, Call.

Equities make strong advance

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TEXTILES & APPAREL, and TRANSPORT.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, and DISTRIBUTORS.

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Table of financial data including SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 10%.

Source: FT Stockmarkets. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated.

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.



last year's... SS... over... Jack... Mo... re... on civil

Source: FT Information... *Yield expressed as CAGR (Compound Annual Return)...

CHOICE 1

Malcolm Arnold's 75th birthday is marked by guitarist Julian Bream



CHOICE 2

Sally Burgess stars as ENO revives Massenet's Don Quixote

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

When We Are Married comes to London with Dawn French



THEATRE

Lindsay Kemp brings his own fey touch to Büchner in Variété at the Hackney Empire

LONDON

IN UNISON: First of three concerts in a mini-festival in which top guitarists Julian Bream, John McLaughlin and the London Mozart Players for a unique collaboration between soloist and orchestra.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

ELSEWHERE

BRIMMINGHAM: As part of the city's autumn arts season Sir Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in an evening of Haydn's The Seasons.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Erwin Burmeister (0171-638 4141)... British Library Galleries: Theatrical Entertainments in 19th-Century London (0171-323 7111)

Dumbshow in many ways

Lindsay Kemp is the great English eccentric of world theatre and like many artists who do not slot neatly into categories, he has found his fame - if not his fortune - abroad.



The show must go on, and on: the cast of Lindsay Kemp's Variété, with Kemp (in striped shirt) at the centre

Variété Hackney Empire

British tour that will, among other places, return Kemp to Blackpool, whose seafront sideshows so fascinated him as a boy. Kemp has always loved to mix genres: music, dance, text, visual imagery, mime, circus and music-hall have all found a place in his work.

The events that led to Vogel's descent into madness and jealous frenzy are recited clearly if a little ploddingly, on and around the circus stage of Kemp's and Leslie Travers's satyrs. The action is revealed in song, with a modicum of help from dance, except in the case of Vogel (so tormented he wouldn't speak if he could) and Nuria Moreno's luminous angel Marie, the deaf and dumb girl whose fatal mistake is to fancy the smart-talking aerialist Rex.

The score played live on stage, with its gypsy strings and echoes of Berg's opera, has an eloquent dissonance that shapes the evening. Its frequent piercing melodies of sadness lend an emotional weight to the outcasts and their shabby lives backstage. But Miranda's lyrics (which reflect the Büchner antecedent) are trite and pedestrian, and Kemp's direction is tediously slow, with - given the file - ironically little variety of pace and colour. There is at least one outstanding exception, though: the slow-motion murder, so mesmerising under the stark moonlight, is a special moment of Kemp magic.

Kemp himself (like all of his fine cast) is hypnotically watchable especially when forced to walk the tightrope dressed as the fluffy white Birdman. It is a grotesque scene of humiliating humour, the kind of silent agony that the great mime has made his own.

DEBRA CRAINE

ASHES TO ASHES

Prize-winning Lindsay Duncan and Stephen Rea in an hour-length two-hander directed by Pinter. Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors), West Street, WC2 (0171-595 5000). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until Oct 26

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre's showing in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

VIOLIN TIME

Another of Ken Campbell's amazing rambles around the world and into his overwriting mind, this time with music composed and performed by Teo-Wu Wong.

Notes from the underground

ular Music II provided the highlights of the afternoon's proceedings. The music produced by the 13-piece ensemble bore some resemblance to that of Michael Nyman and Steve Reich, but avoided the arch, smug glibness of the former and was more overtly emotional than the latter.

NEW MUSIC

Solo pianist Alex Maguire also wore his heart unfashionably prominent on his sleeve in a passionate display of seamless improvisation incorporating everything from Take the "A" Train to snatches of stride and post-bop.

The evening began well, with the virtuosic double-bowed cello of Frances-Marie Uitti - another solo improvised performance of power and imagination - but foundered somewhat with Dave Stewart and Barbara Gas-

kin's "pop music for grown-ups". The combination of fearfully loud programmed drums, saccharine, floating melodies uncertainly sung, and headbanging guitar playing failed to dispel the notion that their tag is inherently oxymoronic.

CHRIS PARKER

NEW RELEASES

DON'T FORGET YOU'RE GOING TO DIE: Set in 19th-century France, an art graduate who tests HIV-positive. Written and directed by, and starring, Xavier Beauvois.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them. Includes titles such as 'The English Patient' and 'The Piano'.

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OPERA 1 Magnificent playing is harnessed to a probing staging in Covent Garden's Die Walküre



OPERA 2 ... but in Leeds a new production of Gluck's masterly Iphigenia in Aulis founders unconvincingly

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC Give him a clap: the 'father of minimalism', Steve Reich, celebrates his 60th birthday at the Festival Hall

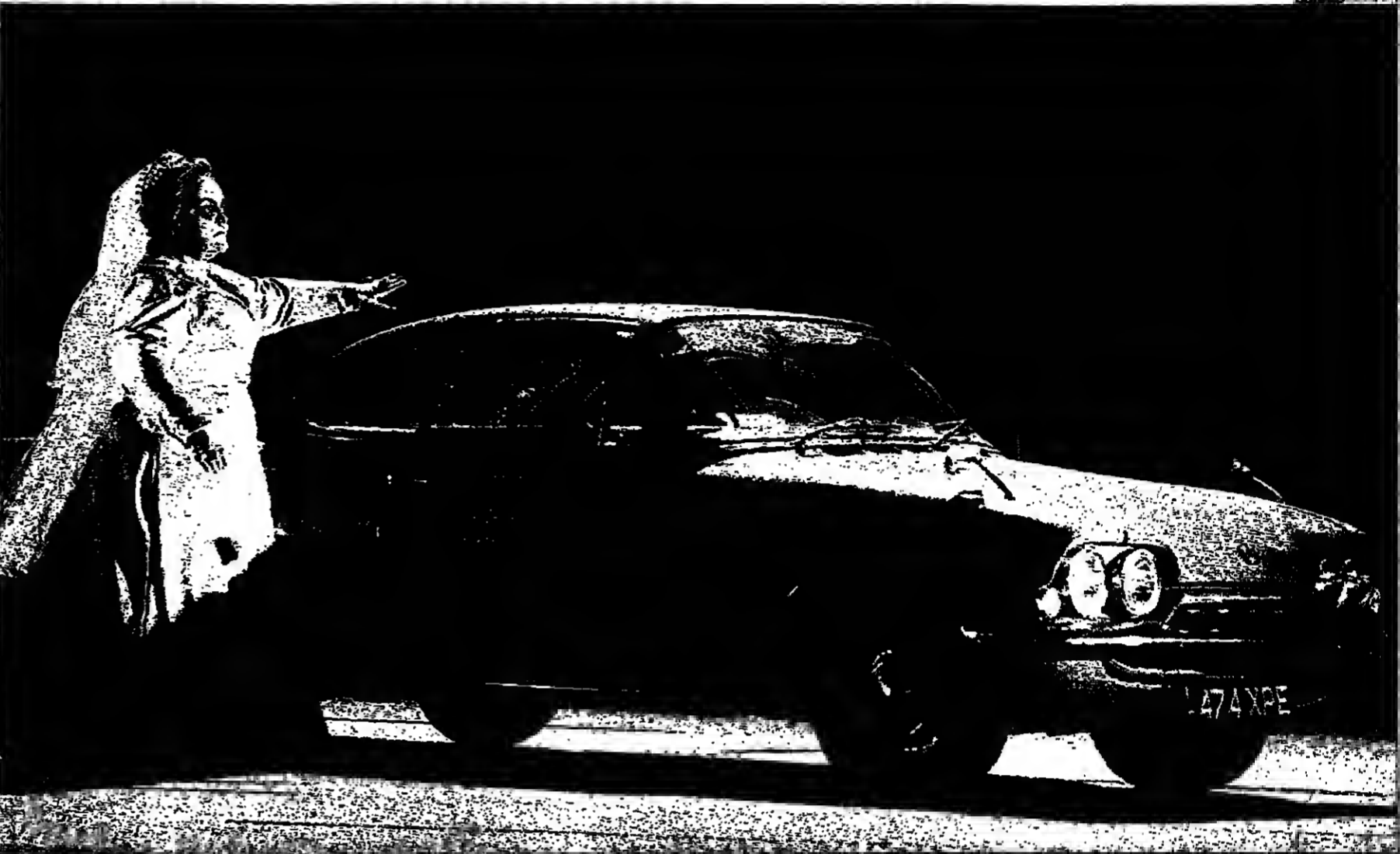


OFFER See Gene Wilder on stage, and meet the star: an unbeatable offer from our Theatre Club, below

OPERA: The gods would rejoice at the Royal Opera's provocative Ring, but weep over Opera North's stylised Gluck

Wagner taken for a wild ride

Much ink has been spilt on a supposed conflict between Bernard Haitink's conducting of the Royal Opera's Ring and Richard Jones's anarchic, free-wheeling production, as though the former were "authentic" and the latter somehow subverted it; Haitink's eloquently expressive sight on seeing a set model, caught in BBC2's documentary The House, has been called in evidence. After experiencing Monday's performance of Die Walküre, one of the most shattering I have sat through, I would shyly suggest that if there is a conflict, then it is precisely from that friction that the performance's power emanates. Knapppersbusch, Kempe. Good all. I've heard all the greats (and countless not-so-greats) in the theatre, but cannot honestly recall quite so "complete" a Walküre. Haitink's first act is as leanly lyrical, as tender, as compassionate as Bruno Walter's. He and his superb orchestra conjure up a completely new, violently glittering sound world at the start of the second act — so does Wagner, but Haitink highlights it — and he handles the many problems of pacing in the latter part, where the composer momentarily nods (almost nods off), with supreme skill. And Haitink doesn't shirk the visceral grandeur of the set-pieces in the third act — the Ride, the Farewell, the Magic Fire — but plays them for all they are worth. In counterpoint to this magisterial reading you have Jones's merciless probing of some of the ideas lurking in the text, and he has radically revised the second two acts to clarify the action. The notion of genetic engineering and spare-part surgery (Wotan still wears his short-sleeved, bloodstained surgeon's smock) is made gruesome flesh in the Ride; if you ever had any doubts about the third-act dialogue between Wotan and Brünnhilde being a love scene, they are dispelled by the introduction of a grubby, unmade single bed, on which the Farewell is smoochily played. As the Magic Fire blazes, Wotan locks his daughter in her burning room and throws away the key before collapsing foecally on the bed, a broken wreck of a man. In such juxtapositions a lifetime's complex reactions to Wagner, his work and its effect are explored. One less positive example of friction: Haitink plainly loves Siegfried and all her music, but Jones treats her merely as a hysteric, and Ulla Gustafsson's blustery singing underlines the fact. This is my only serious doubt about Jones's reading, a characterisation that survives in his rethink-



Jane Henschel makes her entrance as Fricka with an old Ford for transport in Richard Jones's rapturously received, free-wheeling production of Die Walküre

ing. But otherwise nearly all is gain. Nigel Lowery's designs are simplified; less jokey looks for the Valkyries, no bull and stallion outlines, simpler plywood set-shapes. I miss the tree-extras, analogues to the Rhine-extras, who cosseted Siegfried and retreated in alarm from the Valkyries' medical experiments — they've gone, and

with them an ecological strain — and I am not sure about Brunnhilde's new little prefabricated office, which softens the impact of the communal blood-on-hands climax of the second act. But the direction of the cast and their performances keep you on the edge of your seat. As delivered by John Tomlinson, Wotan's Narra-

tion is no interior monologue but a fiercely externalised tirade, and some new business with sneering manikin Alberich is absolutely chilling. Tomlinson was in marvellous voice, and so was Deborah Polaski as Brünnhilde, delivering some beautifully expressive soft singing in the last act. Jane Henschel's Fricka, sung with the

fury of a potential Isolda, has got herself a Ford coupe to replace her armoured personnel carrier; I can't get too worked up about this, as Wagner's chariot drawn by rams would get just as many laughs nowadays. Poul Elming's forthright Siegmund acts in twirly unison with Gustafsson's Siegfried: their business with the "human" tree is ecologically effective. The performance was received with well-deserved rapture. When word of mouth gets to work, the Royal Opera's current box-office problems should certainly be at an end. This is great Wagner. RODNEY MILNES



Even the excellent Lynne Dawson in the title role cannot drag Opera North's Iphigenia in Aulis from the shadows

It's a roll over in your grave week for Gluck

One of the great neglected operas of the 18th century, Iphigenia in Aulis had not been staged by a major company here until Opera North ventured it this week. Misadventured it, alas, would be closer to the truth. Finding a modern way of articulating the piece is, of course, not easy, but a good performance should pack tremendous dramatic and musical punch. This did neither. The plot, which turns on the gods' demand for the sacrifice of Agamemnon's daughter, Iphigenia, evokes a web of relationships as "contemporary" as in any opera — vacillating father, protective mother, and a daughter who is reconciled with her lover after believing herself jilted. The production, Tim Hopkins' seems to have misunderstood that in this of all operas, Gluck strives to bring classical eruptions closer to his audience, not distance them. Hop-

kins's stylised gloss undermines the spirit of the work. Iphigenie en Aulide (1774) was the first of seven operas Gluck composed for Paris, and it holds a special position in operatic history. With its four big, equally important roles and emphasis on chorus and dance (omitted here for practical reasons), it is an archetypal grand opera; but what sets it apart is the swiftness of its action, one scene flowing into the next, aria merging into recitative with snowballing momentum. Something of the opera's uniqueness comes across, despite Hopkins's Big Idea of presenting it as an allegory on the lottery. From the numerals that are spotlighted distractingly on the curtain during the overture to the lottery tickets

that run like a leitmotif through the show in Nigel Lowery's designs, the producer seems to be saying that Agamemnon's numbers are "up" — or not. Equating fate and the gods with the lottery may be a sad comment on today's society, but it is certainly not what Gluck, Racine or Euripides had in mind. All this would matter less if the music was in safe hands, but Valentin Reynold's are unsafe. Good performances turn Gluck's plain writing to magical radiance, a commodity in short supply here. Occasionally, as in the finale's great quartet, he found the right tempo, but most of the numbers were either pushed or dragged. The overture sounded almost Beethovenian, and Reynold seemed deaf to Gluck's poignant use of major keys in denoting terrible grief. The work's leading roles include some of the most detailed characterisation in 18th-century opera. Agamemnon and Clytemnestra are no less important than Iphigenia, but any performance must focus on the princess, and here Lynne Dawson sings her with ravishing sweetness. She brings the intensity of feeling that can come only from experience of the original French text, but gets the uncredited and uneven English translation across well. As Clytemnestra, Della Jones discloses a similar sense of style, but her now unfocused mezzo drains the character of her nobility. Christopher Purves's singing lacks the firm, dark tone that Agamemnon needs, but Neill Archer has the high notes to make a brave stab at Achilles and John Rath summons up powerful presence as Calchas. All the men, however, are allowed to shout their way through the recitative, confirming that neither producer nor conductor has feeling for Gluck's genius as a musical dramatist. JOHN ALLISON

CONCERTS: Returns both happy and disappointing

The soul of discretion

THERE are four senior gentlemen drumming with a precision that borders on the demonic. One is Steve Reich, composer, celebrating his sixtieth birthday in character, up to his elbows in the processes that inspired him. Thirty years have elapsed since Steve Reich and Musicians began establishing a new style of performance; it has lost none of its freshness or appeal to a new generation, if a packed, youthful house was anything to go by: machine-like rhythm; pure, open tone and a level of concentrated group mentality that transcends the individual. The percussionists dispatched their complex beating deceptions with the impassivity of monks performing a ritual — at speed. Reich is a composer of relentless control, on and off stage. The effect can be impressive: the guitar piece Electric Counterpoint was written for the jazzman Pat Metheny, but the sparsely scored live

part over the pulsating engine of ten pre-recorded tracks must have put a cruel restraint on its flamboyant dedicatee. Here, guitarist Mark Stewart did his best to inject some charisma into the exercise. Sometimes it is the pulse, characteristically rapid, that enslaves: in the short section of The Cave performed here the click track beat the performers into breathlessness. Reich's music is increasingly subtle: the dazzling duo Nagoya Marimbas (a UK premiere) never has the same pattern for more than three bars. But where he is a true minimalist is in his austerity. He may have expanded his range of sources — 12th-century choral music in 1995's Proverb, multimedia in The Cave — but he has drawn an

even tighter rein round the material. There is one moment in Drumming (1971) when the rhythms tumble out of sync for a few seconds; the relief is thrilling. Reich's development has not been a gradual unloosening of self-imposed bonds, but a tighter weaving. The five-movement Setet (1984) combines layers of marimba, bowed vibraphone, piano, drums and synthesizers in a heady exchange of melody and accompaniments. Proverb presents lower puzzles. As its Wingenstein text suggests, "how small a thought it takes to fill a whole life" — or to develop 15 minutes of music, here performed persuasively by Paul Hillier's Theatre of Voices. It is a sleek, slender work, promising (like much of his music) more than it delivers, yet touching us with the yearning beauty of its weightless, minor-key harmonies. HELEN WALLACE

Show of shows THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB DURING the early years of American television, Sid Caesar's Your Show of Shows was just that; the funniest, most outrageous programme of its time. Among those slaving over hot typewriters, turning out jokes by the yard, were Mel Brooks, Woody Allen — and Neil Simon, who turned his experiences working on the show into Laughter on the 23rd Floor. The play, starring Gene Wilder in his West End debut, opens at the Queen's Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue tomorrow, but Theatre Club members can buy top-priced tickets for the performance on October 22 for only £17.50 (normally £25). And not only that: there will be the chance to join Wilder and the rest of the cast for a glass of wine after the show. To book, telephone 0171-494 5040

THIS WEEK'S OTHER SPECIALS LONDON Prince of Wales Theatre Oct 24-Nov 7 *SAVE 20 per cent on top-priced tickets (normally £30) for the Grammy Award-winning Smokey Joe's Cafe. The show celebrates the songwriting team of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, who gave the world — and singers such as Elvis Presley and the Coasters — songs such as Hound Dog, Love Potion No 9, Yakety Yak and Jailhouse Rock. If any team directed the path of rock'n'roll, it was them. This offer applies to Mon-Thurs evening performances only. Tel 0171-839 5987 Her Majesty's Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20 (7.30pm) *TOP-priced seats £10 (normally £12.50) for the Sunday double-bills featuring the winners and nominees for this year's Perrier Award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Tel 0171-494 5557 Oct 29: Milton Jones: a mixture of top original stand-up and superbly observed character comedy. Winner of the 1996 Perrier Best Newcomer award Dylan Moran: the charming, beguiling and whimsical winner of the 1996 Perrier award Oct 6: Dominic Holland: observational comedy at its best. Rich Hall: one of America's best-known comics Oct 13: Armstrong & Miller: slick, deviously funny and utterly original Bill Bailey: a mixture of stand-up, shaggy dog stories and musical pastiche Oct 20: Al Murray: London's favourite pub philosopher and landlord Alan Parker: "gloriously inept radical anarchist" AYR Gaiety Theatre Oct 19 (2.30pm), 20 (2.30pm, 7.30pm), 21 (7.30pm) *TWO £10 tickets for the price of one to see the brilliant magician and television star Paul Daniels. Tel 01292 01222 SNAPE Snape Maltings Concert Hall Oct 17 *SAVE £3.50 on tickets (normally £15) for Benjamin Britten's chamber opera, The Rape of Lucretia. Tel 01728 453543 WORCESTER Swan Theatre Oct 3-20 *SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £12) for the brilliant performances of Stephen Jeffreys's adaptation of Charles Dickens's Hard Times. Tel 01905 21322 CANTERBURY Gullbenkian Theatre Oct 25 *TWO £8 tickets for the price of one to the British premiere of Odon von Horvath's masterpiece of comic writing, The Belle Vue. Tel 01227 769075 BASINGSTOKE Haymarket Theatre Oct 29-Nov 16 *SAVE £5 on tickets (normally £10 to £13.50) for Bernard Slade's warm-hearted comedy, Same Time, Next Year. Tel 01256 465566

Thin portraits of pilgrims The Canterbury Pilgrims Barbican Hall Robert Tear, gallantly replacing an indisposed Philip Langridge, was the most alert to verbal inflection and clarity, especially as Haberdasher and Doctor, closely matched by Yvonne Kenny as benign sorcerer Nun and exuberant Wife of Bath. Stephen Roberts took the baritone solos with due gravity as Monk and Lawyer, but lacked subtlety of character to vary his tone. The chorus reminded us of Dyson's musical debt to Parry and Vaughan Williams, with a touch of Elgar at better moments. Hickox mostly kept the orchestra in decent trim, letting them relish the opportunity of knowing well in advance what was likely to happen next, and ensuring that polish and punctuation were suitably applied. NOEL GOODWIN

EN O "A guaranteed operatic treat." Daily Telegraph "David Daniels, a beautiful sounding and poised Oberon." Evening Standard "Lillian Watson's glittering Titania." Times Last two performances Tomorrow October 7 at 7.30pm Tickets from £6.50 London Coliseum Box Office 0171 632 8300 24hrs

HERITAGE

Venice ponders the problems of restoring the burnt-out shell of its opera house



POP 1

The Levellers capture the flavour of their Zeitgeist in a rambunctious show on tour in Newport



THE TIMES ARTS

POP 2

... while at Wembley Arena it was a night of contrasts as Lyle Lovett met Mary Chapin Carpenter



TOMORROW

Kate Winslet in Jude, and the other big film releases, reviewed by Geoff Brown

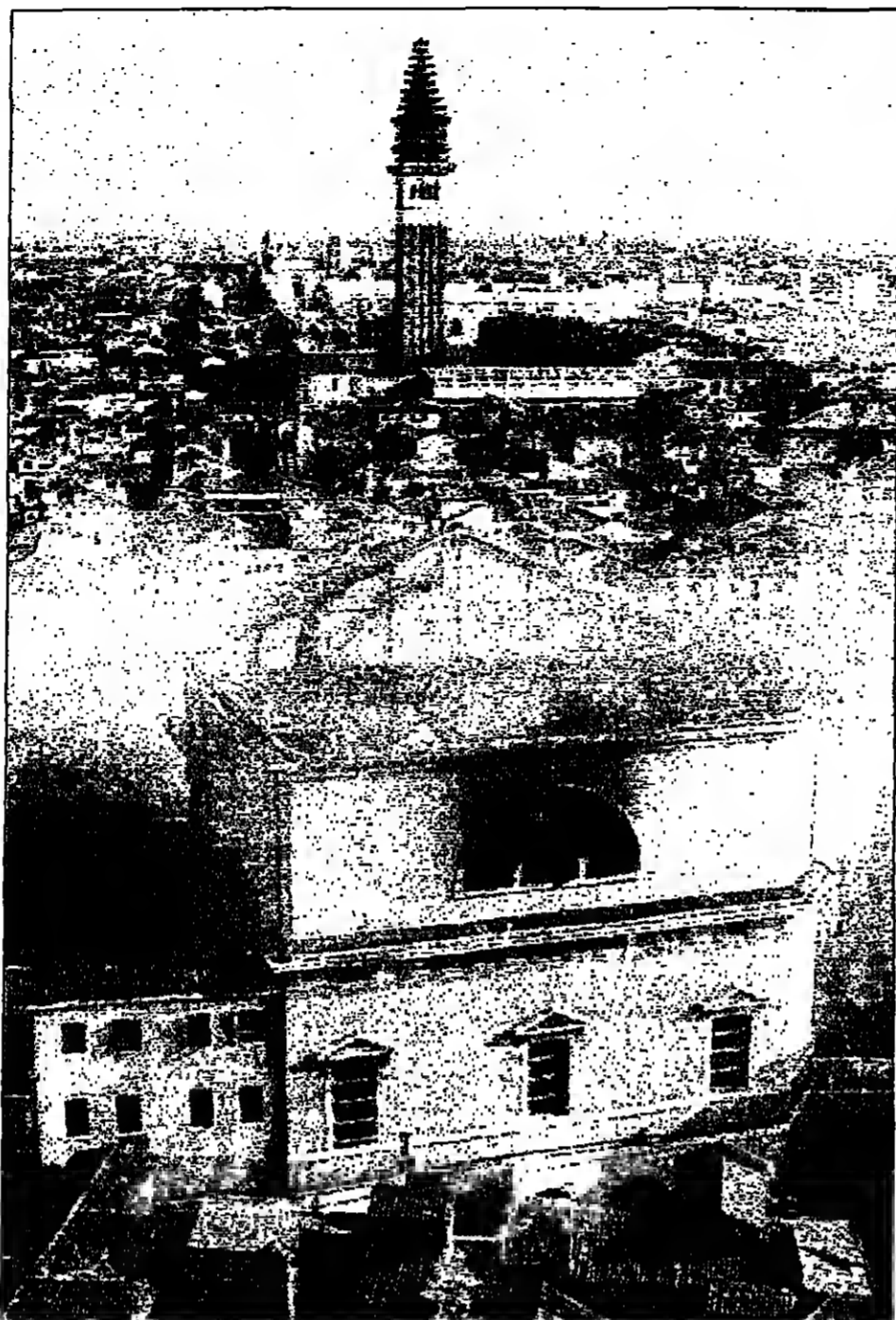


Should Venice's burnt-out Fenice opera house be restored as it was, or 'improved'? Marcus Binney reports

How to raise the phoenix from the ashes

Money is not the problem with the Fenice. The way the millions are pouring in after the disastrous Venice fire on January 30, Italy could almost raise three phoenixes: the original Neo-Classical theatre of 1792, the replacement after the fire of 1836, and a wholly new opera house.

which was overlaid with rococo decoration in 1853 and modernised in 1937. Troiani has no intention of being deflected. "As it was means as it was before the fire," he says firmly.



The shell of La Fenice on the morning after the fire, with St Mark's in the background; and (right) part of the interior, where a surprising amount of plasterwork has survived



A new theatre, Zaha Hadid-style, in Venice? Well, the Mayor recently issued a ringing call for exciting new architecture in the city, although he also proclaimed after the fire that the Fenice would be rebuilt "as it was and where it was", echoing the call for the Campanile in St Mark's square to be rebuilt "dov'era e com'era" after its dramatic collapse in 1902.

Yet a remarkable amount of ornamental plasterwork has survived. This poses the question of whether the restoration should be seamless, or the new work be subtly distinguished from the surviving decoration.

of available architectural and decorative drawings and close-up photography is little short of fabulous. The Sovrintendenza will use it to specify quality and detail throughout, down to guidance

on glazes, varnishes and lacquers. You might think the project would revolve around the appointment of key professionals such as an architect, theatrical design consultant

and acoustician. Instead tenders are being invited from leading building contractors. Initial inquiries have been received not only from EU countries, but from Canada, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan and Korea. A shortlist will be drawn up at the end of October, presentations made in March 1997 and a winner announced.

British craftsmen eager for work in Venice. Merkel is open-minded. "Suitable craftsmen might come from Germany or Austria — these countries are closest to us in music tradition."

ed similarities between the Fenice fire and that which destroyed the opera house at Bari in southern Italy. Both are reported to have begun in more than one place, indicating arson.

originally had a projecting forestage, bringing singers closer to the audience and giving the side boxes much better views. But as elsewhere, the forestage was progressively pushed back. Managers wanted more seats, orchestras more space, and stage designers wanted to create a world of illusion behind a proscenium arch.

Advertisement for 'The career path: obstacles removed tomorrow.' from The Times. Includes text: 'Tomorrow, the exciting new Appointments Section is in three parts. It includes Fast Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers. There's also Management Plus, covering positions for middle management, and Premier Appointments for senior vacancies.'

Each competing contractor will have to present a full team of professionals. But what if one contractor has the best acoustician, another the best engineer? "If we start to pick and choose, the project will take 30 years," says Troiani crisply.

ment's crackdown on the organisation. At the Fenice a clear distinction is being drawn between the public areas, the foyers and auditorium, which will be meticulously restored, and the stage and backstage where, says Troiani, "we will take advantage of whatever modern technology is appropriate."

These are important issues. The question is whether they can be resolved before Troiani gives the green light to a restoration which the Fenice's many friends rightly want to see speeding ahead.

POP: Country meets rock at Wembley, while folk gets political in Newport

Sweet music with the odd couple

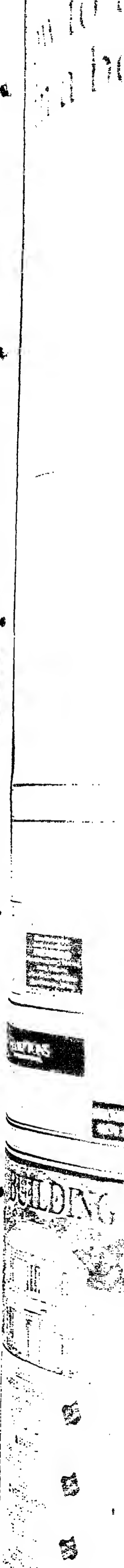
THIS double-header undoubtedly represented good value, but so different are the two singers in style and approach that there cannot have been many in the crowd who really enjoyed both halves equally. Lyle Lovett is spare and dry of voice, a laconic, wry and sometimes bitterly funny writer. Even those of his songs which at first sound like cliché country are layered with irony and cynicism, although he is far from being unromantic. Mary Chapin Carpenter is all warmth and light, with a wonderfully flexible voice. Sometimes husky, sometimes ringingly clear and strong, it encompasses reflective insight and sexual exuberance. Lovett, the loner, was in front of his 16-strong Large Band: four singers, four horns, drums, percussion, piano, steel guitar, upright bass, cello, fiddle and guitar. It was a glorious sight and made a wonderful noise, especially on 'That's Right, You're Not From Texas, Church and It Ought to be Easier. The quieter songs — 'If I Had a Boat' and the title track from his latest album, 'The Road to Ensenada', among them — had greater emotional impact, although the jazzy 'Her First Mistake' drifted into man-

Rabble-rousers renew their roar

nered, Rickie Lee Jones territory. Altogether an impressive display of the Lovett strengths, with more of a swagger than might have been expected. Chapin Carpenter was also in confident mood, but fielded only five other musicians, including two guitarists. This was very much a rock band, and it fairly tore into the likes of 'I Take My Chances, Passionate Kisses, I Won't Be Your Girlfriend, I Feel Lucky and He Thinks He'll Keep Her'. But the ballads were what most people had come to hear, and they were superb. A hush fell during 'My Pirate Days, Sudden Gift of Faith, an unaccompanied 'Why Walk When You Can Fly?' and two magical encores. It was a shame that she did not offer 'What If We Went to Italy?', a quiet gem which is the finest thing on her forthcoming Place in the World album. TONY PATRICK

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Laura Blair visits a new university library that has been really designed to please

A beautiful barn of a building



The library shines like a beacon across the university campus

Buildings that are fun and stimulating to work in are not what instantly spring to mind when you think of educational establishments in this country. But Thames Valley University, one of the poorest of the new universities, has stolen a march over the rest with a striking £3.6 million multimedia library, designed by Sir Richard Rogers.

The Paul Hamlyn Resource Centre upends established assumptions of what libraries should look like, and indeed the whole idea that students should be passive recipients for the dispensation of knowledge. In this "beautiful barn of a building", students can set their own learning paths, using a mixture of books and computer and video systems, in the most congenial of environments.

The design is "accessible" - that is, very open - but also dramatic and logical. It shines like a beacon in the university's Slough campus. The library storage area, seminar rooms and studios are to one side, linked to the workstations on the other side by a sweeping lean-to curved glass and aluminium roof.

Vibrant colours - purple carpet, red chairs, silver shelving - add

visual interest and help orientation. All help desks for library staff and IT technicians are green. High-tech equipment, spaces for discussion and landscaped grounds have been given equal attention.

Another departure from convention is that the library was designed not only to improve the university's quality of life but also its bottom line. Its facilities, open seven days a week, are expected to attract the local business community - and even the rest of the world. The idea is that it will soon function as an electronic hub for long-distance learning, networking students from universities anywhere and home students. Following modern business practice, IT services have been contracted out to ICL.

But like all other universities under unprecedented economic strictures, TVU is having to pull out all the stops to renew itself. Already 48 per cent of its revenue comes from non-funded sources. Unusually, it is taking architecture very seriously as a catalyst for change. In the case of Slough it reckoned it needed "not just good design but high-profile design to raise the self-esteem of the university's staff and students, and its image with local

residents," says Mike Fitzgerald, the Vice-Chancellor.

To enable the university to engage the eminent architect it could not otherwise have afforded, Paul Hamlyn, TVU's Chancellor, offered to pay the architect's fee out of his own pocket. But proving that good design need not cost more, the building itself was built on a tight budget funded by a bank loan and a contribution from the Higher Education Funding Council.

Dr Fitzgerald declares himself delighted with the result. "It captures our ethos of open learning. But it is also a very simple building to run, and very safe."

In practical terms this means something as basic as one entrance door only - very elegant, purple and revolving - teams with a security desk and an electronic access control system.

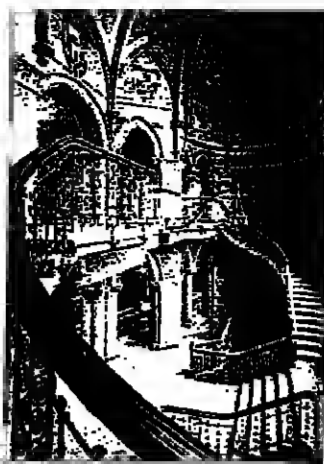
The building is energy-efficient - without being doctrinaire about it. Thus it is naturally ventilated because there was neither the budget nor the desire to install an expensive and "imgreen" air-conditioning system. But, reckoning that nature's way would need some help on hot summer days, service consultants Büro Happold have also

insulated the interior: an ideal, simple solution for an ideal, simple building.

The Paul Hamlyn Learning Resource Centre stands in solitary splendour in a down-at-heel campus. The plan is to rebuild the rest around it. Funding? The hope is, Mr Fitzgerald says, to do it in conjunction with a business partner.

On track for the next century

A public competition to find a long-term use for St Pancras Chambers, one of London's best-known Victorian buildings, has been launched with the aim of restoring the structure as closely as possible to its original splendour.



St Pancras: the lavish interior

The Grade I listed building was in turn the result of a competition in 1868 by the Midland Railway for the design of a suitably impressive hotel at its London terminus. It was won by George Gilbert Scott and his red-brick masterpiece was opened as the Midland Grand Hotel in 1873. It closed its doors in 1935 and converted to railway offices.

These were abandoned in the early 1980s because they were too expensive to heat and maintain. The building has been empty for over a decade. The outside has just had a £10 million refurbishment, but the interior is damaged and neglected, although the grand staircase and much original decoration, including the original wallpaper and stencil decorations, remain. The new competition has been launched by London and Continental Railways, which took responsibility for the building along with the station in June as the consortium chosen to take over Eurostar and Union Railways and to build the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link. Suggestions so far for the

building have included an hotel, conference centre, studios and private flats, but the company has opened the competition in the hope of attracting the widest entry to choose from.

The competition will be judged by Sir William McAlpine, chairman of the Railway Heritage Trust, Richard Arthur, leader of Camden council, and Simon Jenkins. The winner is expected to be announced next summer. Those interested in competing should write to LCR at 3/5 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DA.

IAN MURRAY

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RUGBY UNION

Combined effort to spread gospel

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOTTINGHAM, at the foot of the second division in the Courage Clubs Championship...

Where wealthier clubs than Nottingham have opted to cherry-pick established rugby league players...

It is a rare shaft of light for Nottingham, who, since 1991, have slipped gradually down the second division...

They have an agreement with David Wilson Homes, a building company, which provides an option on their ground at any time over the next five years...

They [Sheffield] are prepared to help on our commercial side, where we are particularly weak...

Diprose to captain Barbarians

TONY DIPROSE, the Saracens captain, is to lead the Barbarians squad in the inaugural Air France sevens...

The Barbarians are scheduled to end the Australia tour of Scotland, Ireland and Wales on December 7...

However, with 51,000 tickets sold for the Barbarians v Australia game and an English league programme scheduled that day...

BARBARIANS SEVENS SQUAD: S Hickey, O Cheong, A Hickey, G Greenwood, A Hickey, G Greenwood, A Hickey...

FOOTBALL: INFLATED FEES IN BRITAIN FORCE SMALLER PREMIERSHIP CLUBS TO LOOK ABROAD FOR NEW RECRUITS

Souness profits from import policy

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

GRAHAM SOUNESS has always had his doubts about investing in continental players. He has regarded them as little more than cheap imports...

However, since his arrival at Southampton, Souness has had to join the FA Carling Premiership bandwagon, forced into plundering Europe by the inflated prices of the domestic market...

The purchase of Thor-Andre Flo, the younger brother of Jostein Flo, the former Sheffield United striker, is also on temporary hold...

and returned to Israel until his work permit is granted. Having won 37 international caps, it is unlikely the £1 million move will fall through on bureaucratic grounds...

One source suggested that Alves was less than impressed with Southampton's 3-1 defeat against Wimbledon. Another indicated that his financial demands defied credibility...

Wenger states lofty ambition

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

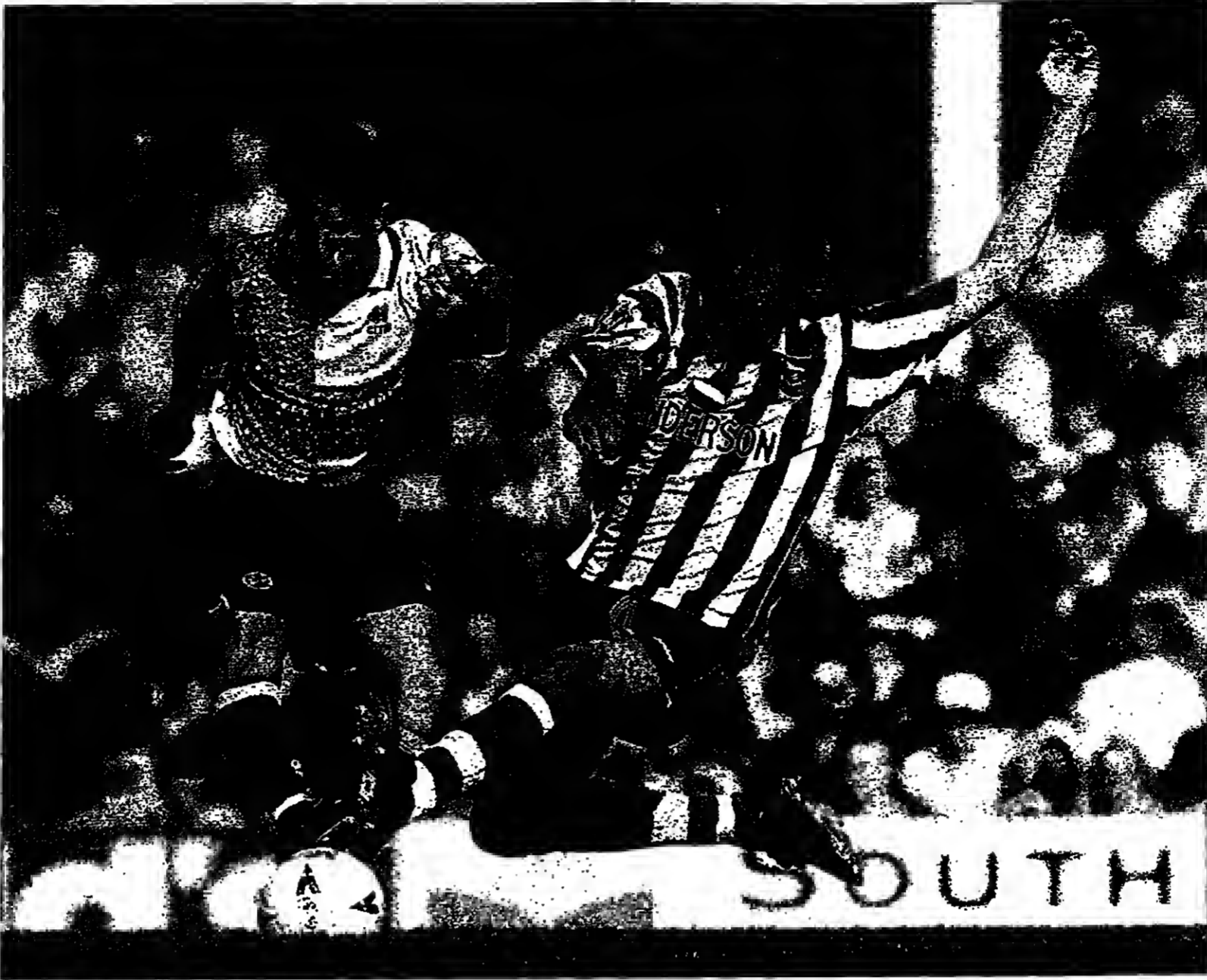
ARSENE WENGER, the new Arsenal manager, started work at Highbury yesterday and left no one in any doubt as to his aims...

The Frenchman, whose arrival from Nagoya Grampus Eight, the Japanese club, has been delayed by more than a month...

The league championship is the mark of real quality for me, the first ambition, he said. "Everything follows from that...

ward since Arsenal were last champions. "I will aim to try to improve the club at every level, from the first team down to the youth system...

The gruesome side of the Spanish passion for football was revealed yesterday when a first division linesman went into hiding after receiving death threats from fans...



Lundekvam, a Souness acquisition, tackles Juninho, of Middlesbrough, during Southampton's 4-0 victory on Saturday. Photograph: Robin Jones

£400,000 move from Norway. On Saturday, in the 4-0 win against Middlesbrough, he gave Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Italian striker, an uncomfortable 90 minutes...

and returned to Israel until his work permit is granted. Having won 37 international caps, it is unlikely the £1 million move will fall through on bureaucratic grounds...

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Keegan survives thrilling evening

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PEOPLE can say what they like, but Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United will attack, attack, attack and attack some more...

Keegan was breathless, sweating and his heart was racing 20 beats to the dozen again on Monday night as Newcastle charged forward against Aston Villa at St James' Park...

"It was the kind of game where you contact your doctor the next morning for a check-up, even though you only had one three weeks ago," he said, suggesting that even his heart was struggling under the strain...

Dwight Yorke opened the scoring for Villa after three minutes. Les Ferdinand replied moments later and the pattern was set. By half-time, Newcastle led 3-1, Ferdinand (again) and Shearer scoring, with Villa reduced to ten men after Mark Draper was sent off...

Keegan admitted afterwards: "I said before the game Villa were my team of the year, but even I must admit I didn't realise just how good they were. In the second half, it looked as though they had 11 men and we had ten. Everyone says we've a bad defence and they tried to prove it..."

The performance inspired Shearer to commend his partnership with Ferdinand to Glenn Hoddle, the England coach. "We can't do any more. We have both been playing reasonably well and both been scoring goals. That's all we can do at club level and now both of us have to hope that we get the call," he said.

Wilkins rejects Hibernian

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RAY WILKINS yesterday ruled himself out of consideration to succeed Alex Miller as manager of Hibernian. But the former England international is keen to return to the club for a second month's contract as a player...

Miller left Easter Road after a decade in charge, which made him the longest-serving manager in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. Douglas Croom, the Hibernian chairman, hopes to have a new manager installed by the time Rangers, the champions, visit Edinburgh on October 12...

Gordon Strachan, now with Coventry City, could be the favourite among Hibernian supporters, who want a Scot in charge after seeing Jim Jefferies, a lifelong Heart of Midlothian supporter, make a sound start to his managerial career at Tynecastle.

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Murdo MacLeod, a former Hibernian midfielder player and, at present, the Patrick Thistle manager, could also be among the candidates, along with Terry Christie, Alex McLeish, Jim Duffy and Steve Archibald. But Wilkins, the former Queens Park Rangers manager, who completed a month's playing contract on Saturday with the home defeat by Hearts, will not apply...

"I am not interested in the managerial position," Wilkins said. "I would prefer to take a break from management at present. But I intend returning to Hibs for another month as a player. I spoke to Alex about it after Saturday's game and agreed, verbally, to stay another month..."

"I've spoken to the chairman since then and have agreed to come back. My word is my bond and I have enjoyed playing with a great set of lads at Hibs. But if a new manager comes in and doesn't feel I fit the bill as a player in the short term, then so be it..."

Jocky Scott, Miller's assistant, is in temporary charge of Hibernian while their former manager takes a day off today for the first time in 30 years.



Wilkins: eager to play

Candidates queue at Wycombe

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been inundated with inquiries from prospective new managers since Alan Smith was dismissed on Monday (Russell Kempson writes). All have been told to apply in writing, but the Nationwide League club expects to take at least a month before making an appointment...

"I had four people ring up before Alan had barely left the stadium," John Reardon, the Wycombe secretary, said yesterday. "I've since had several more calls, but they've been told to go through the same process as everyone else..."

Wycombe will advertise the job nationally over the weekend. Smith, the former Crystal Palace manager, left with Wycombe bottom of the second division after failing to win any of their opening nine League matches. Though he retained a strong friendship with Ivor Beeks, the Wycombe chairman, the majority view of the nine-strong board went against him. "It was decided that we couldn't allow the situation to go on much longer," Reardon said, "but we don't want to be too hasty in finding a replacement..."

Smith, who will seek compensation for the eight months remaining on his two-year contract, claimed that, in recent weeks, his Mercedes car had been vandalised and that his family had been verbally abused by some of the club's supporters.

Official's life on line when passion turns to menace

The gruesome side of the Spanish passion for football was revealed yesterday when a first division linesman went into hiding after receiving death threats from fans...

Real Zaragoza were leading Bobby Robson's side 3-2 at that point, and appeared to have the game in their pocket, when Senior Guerrero ruled that Couto, of Barcelona, had been pushed in the Zaragoza penalty box...

The referee, who had missed the alleged foul, consulted the linesman - now surrounded by a horde of angry, swearing Zaragoza players - and as a result of their animated conversation, the right back, Aguado, was sent off and Barcelona drew level from the spot...

demoralised Zaragoza collapsed after that, as the Brazilian, Ronaldo, scored twice in Barcelona's eventual 5-3 win.

Yet as television footage revealed, Aguado was innocent, another player having done the pushing. Couto had, in any case, overreacted spectacularly. The penalty turned the match and Zaragoza's inhabitants went to bed that night muttering "ladrones", the Spanish equivalent of "we was robbed"...

The next day, El Periódico de Aragón, the local paper, ran an inflammatory piece which suggested that Guerrero had always worn a Barcelona jersey to school as a boy. Cars bearing Barcelona licence plates were locked and pelted with stones and there were several incidents in which men with Catalan accents were roughed up in bars...

Football-related fury is often expressed in this way in Spain, and the sourness might slowly have dissolved into history had it not occurred to some Zaragoza fans to bombard the luckless linesman with death threats over the telephone. Guerrero, who works as a high school porter when not wielding his flag, first appealed for calm on the radio and then, perhaps wisely, chose to duck out of sight for a while...

Although widely criticised in the Spanish press, the linesman did have one gallant defender. Juan Andujar Oliver, a former international referee writing in the newspaper El Mundo, said: "Couto should have stayed on his feet, instead of throwing himself on the turf. Zaragoza's players should not have surrounded the referee and linesman as they did. Can you imagine something like this happening in the English Premier League? Impossible!"

Tunku Varadarajan on a decision that prompted an extreme response from fiery Spanish supporters

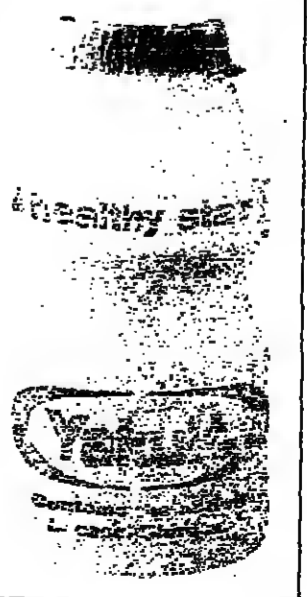
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EQUESTRIANISM

French cavalry rides to rescue in revamped show

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

THE rehabilitation of the Horse of the Year Show continues when it opens today at the Wembley Arena with a new image and a new programme designed to put the show back at the forefront of Britain's equestrian calendar.

Changes include a dramatic facelift to the arena and hospitality areas, six new classes to complement the traditional array of showing and showjumping events and performance by the famous French cavalry school, the Cadre Noir, of Saumur, which has been hired for a six-figure sum as part of the attempt to rekindle the show's glamour and excitement.

It was during the 1970s that the show, started in 1948 by the late Colonel Sir Mike Ansell as a 'champion of champions show', enjoyed its heyday. Then it was watched by 50,000 in the arena and more than six million on television. But a steady decline reached its lowest point two years ago with the absence of television coverage, the loss of key sponsors, reduced prize-money and meagre audiences.

With the show in danger of extinction, Wembley Stadium Limited stepped in last year to lease it from the British Show Jumping Association - a brave move in the light of the £250,000 losses incurred in 1994. "We decided it was part of our national heritage and Wembley ought to help protect it," Jerry Heaver, the show

manager, said. Having tested the water last year they embarked on a more radical programme of change this year. Revamped at a cost of £1.2 million - £250,000 of which has come from sponsorship - they have built a new viewing restaurant, new royal box and hospitality suite, made improvements to the layout of the arena, introduced computerised scoring and installed new jumps and lighting.

Although the prize-money remains low - a problem Heaver intends to address in the future - all of Britain's leading showjumpers are competing, including the four members of the Olympic team - Geoff Billington, Nick Skelton, John and Michael Whitaker.

But they will not all have their top horses. Because Wembley conflicts with the Bremen Show in Germany - where the main event offers a £40,000 first prize compared with the £7,500 first prize in the Wembley Grand Prix on Sunday - three of the Olympic riders are commuting between the two shows at the weekend.

John Whitaker, who retains a deep affection for Wembley - "it's in my blood; it's where most of us got started," he said - will keep his top horse, Welham, for Bremen and rely on Grannusch and Randi for his share of the £140,000 on offer at Wembley. Skelton will take his 1995 World Cup winner, Dollar Girl, to Germany and rides Showtime, the winner of the Grand Prix last year, at Wembley. Billington's It's Otto, whose sixth place in Atlanta was the best British equestrian performance, will also contest the two-part Bremen Classic, leaving Corona and Mancuso for Wembley.

The first of the national jumping finals takes place today with the Grade C Championships. Other key events include the Horse and Hound Foxhunter final tomorrow, the McCusker show hunter of the year championship on Friday and the Volvo World Cup dressage - qualifier on Sunday.

The "fun" displays that punctuate these finals include the Musical Drive of the heavy horses, the Spillers Pony Club mounted games and, for the first time, terrier racing.



Skelton on Showtime



Rusedski plays a backhand slice during his straight-sets win over Woodbridge

Rusedski rises to challenge

GREG RUSEDSKI, the British No 2, and Sam Smith, the 24-year-old Essex player, gained their best victories of the season yesterday. Rusedski, whose world ranking sank to 84, his worst of the year, on Monday, responded by producing one of the best performances of his career when he beat Todd Woodbridge in straight sets in the first round of the Heineken Open in Singapore.

Woodbridge, ranked 34 in the world and the fifth seed in the tournament, was unable to cope with the Briton's service and speed of return and surrendered meekly, 6-3, 6-1. Smith, ranked 214 in the world, beat Asa Carlsson, of Sweden, ranked 46, 6-2, 7-6 in the first round of the Sparkassen Cup in Leipzig. After a comfortable first set, Smith led 5-2 in the second but missed a match point in the eighth game and trailed 4-2 in the tie-break before clinching victory.

After her performance in reaching the semi-finals of the Limoges Challenger tournament last week and in beating such a high-ranked player as Carlsson, Smith is certain to move up from No 3 to No 1 in Britain when the Women's Tennis Association announces its next list of world rankings on Monday. Another player in fine form in Leipzig was Steffi Graf, who needed just 40 minutes to beat Kimberly Po, of the United States, 6-0, 6-1 in her first-round match, her first in Germany since her father, Peter, went on trial for tax evasion. Graf won the first 12 points and yielded only five on her service in the entire match.

TODAY'S FUTURES

Table with columns for Football, Jewson Wessex League, Anglo-Welsh Cup, Rugby Union, Rugby League, and Other Sport.

IN BRIEF

Angry Scots held to draw by US. SCOTLAND and the United States drew 1-1 in a controversial group B match in the hockey World Cup preliminary tournament in Cagliari, Sardinia, yesterday. The first incident came in the 44th minute when Paul Mellor was judged to have committed a foul and, from the resulting penalty, Scott Williams put the Americans ahead.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Table with columns for National League, Boxing, Cricket, and Rugby League.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for Italian Championship, Welsh Schools Cup, Premier League, and Tennis.

READER OFFER THE TIMES. ALBUMS OF THE YEAR. Readers of The Times can get the Mercury Music Prize CD, which includes tracks from ten top albums shortlisted for the 1996 Mercury Music Prize.

Cowboys on song. American football: The Dallas Cowboys recaptured their Super Bowl winning form with a 23-19 win over Philadelphia Eagles in the National Football Conference east division yesterday.

Martin pulls out

Squash: A back injury has forced Jane Martin, the England No 3, to withdraw from the national squad for the women's world team championship in Kuala Lumpur later this month. Linda Charman, the England No 5, will replace her. Charman has reached the last two national finals and shares a training base with Martin in Welwyn Garden City.

Chris Moore

Hockey: Chris Moore, the hockey correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, died suddenly on Monday evening after attending a meeting in London of the Hockey Writers' Club, of which he was a former chairman. He was 59. Over a period of nearly 20 years he had covered five World Cup tournaments and five Olympic Games, including the one recently concluded in Atlanta. He had also been the editor of World Hockey, the official publication of the International Hockey Federation, for the past five years.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard. IEIE a. Id est, id est b. A nightbird c. The screw-pine

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Kotov - Lisitsin, Soviet Union, 1939. Black is material ahead, but has minimal protection around his king. How did White now make the most of the absence of the black forces in this sector?

SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE

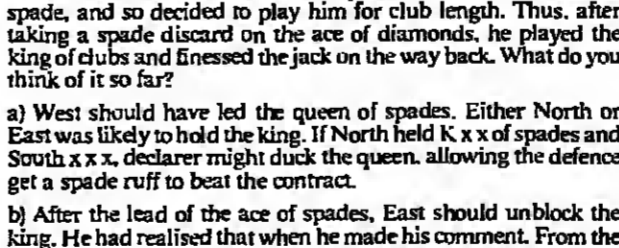
By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent. East's idle chatter on this hand should be punished. Dealer North North-South game Robber bridge

Bridge hand diagram showing cards in each hand and the trick sequence.

KEENE ON CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent. Bronze prospects. With one round to go in the Chess Olympiad in Ervan, Armenia, England have a good chance of gaining the team bronze medal.

Diagram of final position



Women's Olympiad

In the women's Olympiad, England's hopes of a medal were dashed when they were beaten 3-0 by Russia in the thirteenth round. This was a particular disappointment as England had been performing excellently up to that point.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kotov - Lisitsin, Soviet Union, 1939. Black is material ahead, but has minimal protection around his king. How did White now make the most of the absence of the black forces in this sector? Solution on page 46

RUGBY LEAGUE

Clubs join forces to play money game

By Christopher Irvine

FIRST and second division clubs are to follow the example of their Super League counterparts in setting up a company to administer their commercial affairs. The move is not a break-away in the strict sense, as all clubs will remain under the umbrella of the governing body, the Rugby Football League (RFL). The RFL has a golden share, with veto powers, in the newly-formed Rugby League (Europe) Ltd (RLE), that is responsible for the running and promotion of the 12 Super League clubs.

RLE is working to a ten-point programme to generate more revenue, sustain profitability and ensure that the game's profile and popularity increase in the four years left of the £87 million Super League contract. The lower-division clubs, too, feel they can do a better job marketing themselves.

Paul Newlove, the St Helens centre, underwent knee surgery yesterday. He will not be fit until the two-game challenge with Wigan at Christmas and new year and has been ruled out as a possible Great Britain tour replacement in New Zealand for John Roper, of Warrington, whose knee problems are proving to be serious.

"It looks as if John will not be available for three or four weeks," Phil Lander, the Britain coach, said. "We want to give him another couple of days before we decide." Britain meet a Fijian President's XIII at Lautoka early today and play Fiji for the first time at Nadi on Saturday.

ICE HOCKEY

Promising Lyle has to play second fiddle

By Norman De Mesquita

STEVIE LYLE is probably the best young goaltender Great Britain has produced. A couple of years ago, when he was still a schoolboy, Lyle performed wondrous feats in Kiev to enable Cardiff Devils to upset all known form in the European Cup. Now, through a combination of talent and ill-fortune, he is unlikely to play much in the Superleague this season.

He was drafted by Detroit Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League, and attended pre-season training, where he did sufficiently well to be chosen as their No 2 for the coming season.

In all North American sports, they have a farm system, whereby a major league team owns part or all of a team at a lower level and monitors the progress of its young players, the better ones making it to the senior team.

A Russian-born defenceman, who had been called up from the Whalers, was not good enough to stay at the higher level and was returned to the club. This meant that they had three imports, but league rules allow only two. The team's goaltending coach wanted in keep Lyle but the management decided to retain the Russian, so Lyle was released.

Knowing that Lyle was on his way to Detroit, the Devils signed Frank Caprice, an experienced goaltender, who is now firmly established. So Lyle will probably be Caprice's backup this season, which will mean too little action for a young player of immense promise.

Mercury Music Prize CD for £1. Readers of The Times can get the Mercury Music Prize CD, which includes tracks from ten top albums shortlisted for the 1996 Mercury Music Prize.

THE TIMES MERCURY CD TOKEN 4. CHANGING TIMES. Includes details about the CD offer and contact information.

By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Kotov - Lisitsin, Soviet Union, 1939. Black is material ahead, but has minimal protection around his king. How did White now make the most of the absence of the black forces in this sector? Solution on page 46

Dettori offers rare glimpse of a perfect world

Saturday was, for Frankie Dettori, rather more than a good day at the office. Seven rides, seven winners...

usual manifestations of victory. Heavenly perfection, indeed. It is something you see very rarely, but perhaps you see it in sport more often than you do elsewhere...

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

Brian Lara entered a tunnel of perfection, when he scored 375 against England in Antigua, and remained there during the weeks that followed...

remembered as a deeply unsatisfactory cricketer, which is a howling injustice. You could argue that his nine for 57 against South Africa at the Oval was one wicket short of perfection...

has ever been struck. With six minutes to go, he found Burroughs, who ran on to score the winner in a 3-2 victory.

The Hand of God goal was the trigger

metric bars was, from beginning to end, flawless. She performed four routines and was awarded four perfect tens. On the beam she managed perfection another three times.

The damaged Cartilage

Late Night Opening: My Booze Hell, Radio 4, 11.00pm. Little John Cartilage's hide is as tough as old boots. How else to explain the fact that, when introduced by Melvyn Bragg as the man who has become synonymous with anonymous, he takes it as a compliment?

Evening Concert, Classic FM, 8.00pm. Two of the selected works tonight are well known: the other certainly deserves to be. It is the Adagio with Violations, played by Mstislav Rostropovich and the Moscow Virtuosi.

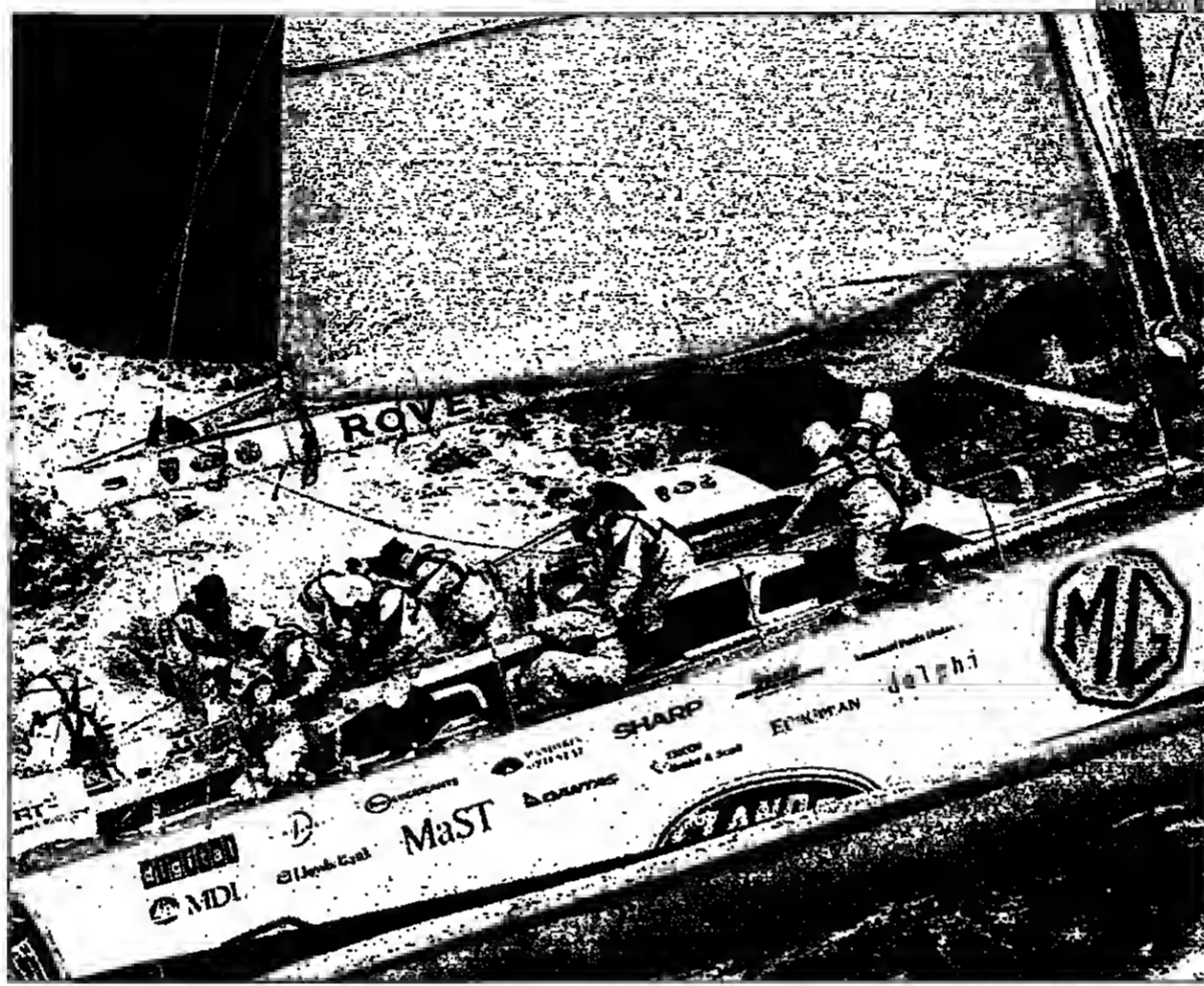
Table with columns for RADIO 1, WORLD SERVICE, RADIO 2, RADIO 5 LIVE, TALK RADIO, VIRGIN RADIO, RADIO 3, RADIO 4. Each column lists program names and times.

Outlook of skippers shrouded by concern

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

JUST three days into the race there are worrying signs that a faulty rigging screw on board the BT Global Challenge yachts could cause serious problems for the fleet...

and may well account for the two boats trailing the fleet. A faulty rigging screw on board the BT Global Challenge yachts could cause serious problems for the fleet...



Ocean Rover, the yacht skippered by Paul Bennett, is a hive of activity in the Bay of Biscay yesterday



lower shrouds. It appears that a locking nut, which is meant to keep the shroud under tension, is working loose with the vibration in the rig, causing the shroud itself to slacken.

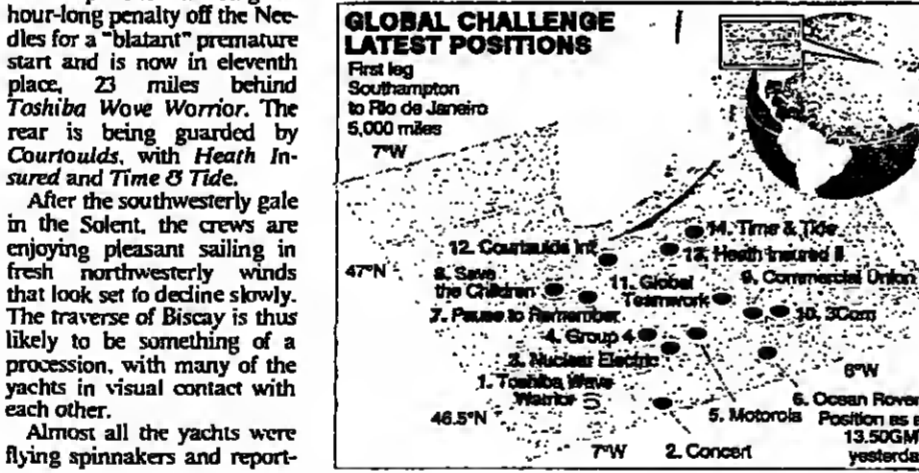
On Monday they had benefited from a more southerly course than some of the other, and were thus able to pick up a faster wind angle when the breeze veered from west to north-west.

of Group 4. Motorola and Ocean Rover. Roughly three miles adrift is the pairing of Pouse To Remember and Sove the Children, with Commercial Union and 3Com a further four miles back.

Meanwhile, the aftermath of the apparent breach of outside-assistance rules by 3Com, which received a fax on weather routing at least four hours after the start on Sunday, continued yesterday.

be anxious that his racing status might be in jeopardy and was waiting to receive reassurance on this point from Chay Blyth, the race director.

Other skippers remain understandably jumpy on the whole question of outside assistance. Sove the Children reported to the race office yesterday overhearing a tanker, Gulf of Korea, talking to Motorola.



Advertisement for 'Get out of the country fast' with a large, stylized 'Fast' text.

Advertisement for Air UK, featuring the slogan 'The Reliable Airline' and a picture of a plane.

CRICKET Sri Lankans extend winning run to 13. Jayasuriya was caught low down by Cullinan at cover. Symcox finished with the figures of 10-1-20-2 as the Sri Lanka middle and lower order faltered...

WORD-WATCHING section with crossword clues and solutions, including words like 'IEIE' and 'MOKI'.

Continuation of the RADIO CHOICE section, listing programs for RADIO 1, 2, 3, 4, and WORLD SERVICE.

